



# PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations  
Association des ONGs des Iles de Pacifique

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## Press Release

### PIANGO commends New Zealand on Pacific work scheme

The Pacific Island Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) commends the New Zealand government for its decision to start a seasonal work scheme allowing six Pacific countries to pilot the scheme starting April next year. PIANGO hopes that the number of Pacific workers will be higher than the maximum number announced by the New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon Winston Peters at the end 37<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Forum that was held in Nadi, Fiji at the end of October. The scheme will allow a maximum of 5000 workers from Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa and Tonga to work on New Zealand's horticulture sector.

“We commend the Government of New Zealand for the decision to open up its labour market as it would be beneficial for both the host and sending Pacific countries. Similar schemes have existed around the 1970's and earnings from this scheme have been used for upgrading rural housing, community water systems and community schools. The new labour scheme will enable workers to invest in better education for their children, the setting up of micro-enterprises and improved propensity to save. We in the Pacific know that there is a direct correlation between receiving remittances and the standard of living in rural and even urban households,” PIANGO Executive Director Cema Bolabola said.

PIANGO is a regional network of national umbrella NGO with members known as National Liaison Units in 23 Pacific Island countries and territories.

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Kiribati	KANGO	Tonga	CSO Forum	Wallis & Futuna	ASCV
FSM	FANGO	Tuvalu	TANGO	West Papua	West Papua

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