



PIANGO

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

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Media Release

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NON STATE ACTORS APPEAL FOR MORE RECOGNITION

Non State Actors (NSAs) in the Small Island States (SIS) of Nauru, Marshall Islands and Kiribati have appealed for recognition of their role by their governments.

The suggestion was a consequence of the SIS National Consultation on the Pacific Plan held at the 3 island countries recently.

According to Mr. Bakanebo Tamaroa, Capacity Building Manager with the Pacific Islands Association of Non - Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), more emphasis should be put in place by Governments on the inclusion of NSAs in decision making.

The consultation delegation included Mr. Atanteora Beiatau, Small Island States Programme Office at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Ms Nainasa Whippy, Pacific Plan Non State Actors Liaison officer and Bakanebo Tamaroa from PIANGO.

Mr. Tamaroa joined the National Consultation delegation from PIFS through an invitation to consolidate PIFS's initiative of involving the participation of NSAs at national level.

PIANGO's involvement resulted out of its status and mandate as the only regional umbrella NGO accountable to members who are national umbrella NGOs.

PIFS and PIANGO were tasked to advocate and influence national governments for more involvement of NSAs in their planning meetings and to improve methods of consultation particularly in developing of National Sustainable Development Strategic Plans.

To assist Governments in their planning activities Mr. Tamoroa considered a meeting of NSAs before the consultation to brief and prepare NGOs to think positive and make the best out of the consultation.

Some major recommendations by the SIS were:

- The development of an exchange programme to enable the transfer of knowledge and basic skills to support subsistence livelihood, to provide an initiative to address sustainable food production and food security and to support the maintenance of crucial and essential physical infrastructures on Nauru.
- Calls for support and recognition of NSA work in the Marshall Islands.
- Assistance in developing a climate change action plan for Kiribati, outlining Government initiatives with the participation of the NSAs and establish a NSA liaison mechanism at PIFS to assist in strengthening processes for national and regional NSAs and build capacity of regional NSAs for advocacy and program delivery.

The major objectives of the National Consultation on the Pacific Plan include creating awareness and providing information on the Pacific Plan and creating an understanding of their different roles in its implementation.

Furthermore, the consultations are aimed at generating discussion, feedback, action and partnership for national and regional mechanisms and forums both for government and NSA/CSO concerns and to discuss the concept of regionalism or sub-regionalism within the context of the Pacific Plan.

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