



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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Civil Societies represented on the Forum Secretariat Agenda

Civil society groups are now better represented on issues that affect them after the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) granted consultative status to the Pacific Islands Association of Non - Governmental Organisations (PIANGO).

This is a milestone achievement for PIANGO, who is the regional network of 21 national umbrella NGOs, as the consultative status would allow PIANGO access to selected PIFS meetings.

With the consultative status, PIANGO is working on securing accreditation to PIFS meetings. The Executive Director of PIANGO, Cema Bolabola said the voice of civil societies will be heard through the nominated PIANGO's representative from its members.

“It gives us formal recognition and participation in the process of PIFS and the consultative status and the accreditation policy was agreed to by the member countries.” she said

According to Nainasa Whippy, Non State Actors Liaison Officer in the Pacific Plan office in PIFS, civil societies may be requested to make presentations once accreditation status is granted.

“During PIFS meetings, it is agreed that only one civil society representative can be present throughout the meeting. Civil society covers wide range of issues and this is a good opportunity to lobby issues that will eventually be channelled to the leaders.”

Now that PIANGO has been granted consultative status the next step is to engage with PIFS in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Pacific Plan as mandated by PIANGO's strategic plan.

“This mandate of PIANGO fits in nicely with the PIFS desires to implement the Leaders decision under the Pacific Plan to build partnerships with civil society. PIFS has therefore collaborated closely with PIANGO in creating awareness amongst civil

society about the Pacific Plan, utilising PIANGO's networks nationally where they have requested such a consultation." Nainasa Whippy said.

Based on the Leaders decision relating to its implementation, the four themes of the Pacific Plan are: economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security.

PIFS is at the forefront in promoting and supporting the Pacific Plan and the success of such a plan is dependent on the support from all stakeholders including civil society. The Pacific Plan could also be used as a tool to progress with issues that affect civil society.

Full Members					
Aotearoa/New Zealand	ANGO	Nauru	NIANGO	Vanuatu	VANGO
Aotearoa/New Zealand	CINGOA	Niue	NIUANGO	Interim Members	
Australia	ACFID	Papua New Guinea	MNCL (Interim)	Bougainville	Nikana Ma'atara
Cook Islands	CIANGO	Samoa	SUNGO	East Timor	CSCBF
Fiji	FCOSS	Solomon Islands	DSE	Guam	Sanctuary Inc.
Kanaky/New Caledonia	UTLN	Tahiti	Hiti Tau	Palau	PCAA
Kiribati	KANGO	Tonga	CSO Forum	Wallis & Futuna	ASCV
FSM	FANGO	Tuvalu	TANGO	West Papua	West Papua

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