

NADI STATEMENT  
OF THE

Pacific Regional Civil Society Forum Meeting  
October 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006

NADI, FIJI

# COMMUNIQUE

## PREAMBLE

WE, the representatives of 64 national and regional civil society organizations from the 19 Pacific countries and territories, who met in Nadi from 20-23 October 2006, thank the Forum Leaders for the opportunity to contribute to their discussions at the 37<sup>th</sup> Pacific Island Forum Summit. This document focuses on the Pacific Plan and its first Annual Report.

The Vision of Pacific Leaders in April 2004 will not be realised until the Pacific Plan is truly the Pacific Peoples' Plan.

We acknowledge with appreciation the inclusion of the recommendation from the Port Moresby CSO Forum Communiqué in the Pacific Plan Annual Report para 33 that *“The Leaders intention to develop the Pacific Plan as a ‘springboard’ for debating and negotiating the region’s long term future be continued in an open and inclusive manner”*. We urge that governments engage effectively with CSOs at both the national and regional levels.

We warmly welcome the appointment of an NSA Liaison Officer in the Forum Secretariat as a stepping stone to better engagement with CSOs. We urge that adequate resources to be made available to the position to consult at the national and regional levels.

We commend the Forum Secretariat for creating a Disability Coordinator Officer position under the Policy Coordination and Advice Unit.

We welcome the commitment to translate the Pacific Plan and other documents into local languages.

We encourage the Pacific Island Countries to work in solidarity as a bloc at international forums at all times.

We commit ourselves to the monitoring of the implementation of the Pacific Plan and call on Pacific Regional NGOs to collaborate with their national affiliates and networks in this endeavour.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

CSOs believe that social wellbeing, cultural values and protection of the environment should be the priority areas for economic development initiatives to enhance the livelihoods of Pacific people. In this context we acknowledge that natural, cultural and indigenous property rights are a basis for economic growth.

We are deeply concerned over the approach to economic growth in the Pacific Plan, particularly its inappropriate focus on trade liberalisation. This is exemplified by unrealistic demands placed on the Pacific particularly through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and negotiations on accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). We call for a people-centred approach to development.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSOs emphasise that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be a minimum standard for achievement in all relevant areas of the Pacific Plan.

We believe that sustainable development is holistically driven rather than economically driven. We recognise that sustainable development cannot exist without self determination for all the indigenous peoples of the Pacific. Furthermore, CSO membership is not limited to the Pacific Islands Forum members and we therefore recommend that regional initiatives should include all indigenous peoples of the Pacific.

We further recognise the critical contribution of women in all levels of development in Pacific island countries. We acknowledge that gender is a cross cutting development that should be integrated into all four pillars of the Pacific Plan. Similarly, youth and disability are pressing crosscutting issues that must be included.

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

The approach to good governance in the Pacific is oriented towards externally defined processes and institutions. CSOs recognise the value of traditional governance. Good governance at regional level requires a meaningful “bottom up approach”. This would see empowered communities working together with Governments and NGO to identify national priorities which would then be supported regionally. Community governance systems must remain an integral part of the solution to the region’s governance challenges.

The Pacific Plan must integrate Pacific and non-Pacific values of good governance. CSOs recognise that good governance must operate at all levels and not be limited to governments. We further recognise that governments must be transparent and accountable at all times.

## **SECURITY**

We strongly support the concept of human security that assures the security of people in their homes, jobs and communities through sustainable development and not through military force or arms; that promotes sustainable management of natural resources, food and health security, protect traditional knowledge and the environment and guarantees self determination.

We recognise that security is multi-dimensional and stress the importance of addressing human security when designing interventions to make the Pacific a safe and secure region.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS**

## **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The CSO forum recommends that improved links be made between national and regional policies with national policies driving regional initiatives.
2. The CSO Forum expresses concern that the current mechanisms of CSO engagement at the regional level remain inadequate. The inclusion of CSOs in the Pacific Plan process is critical if the Plan is to include the voices and aspirations of Pacific peoples. We call for the immediate endorsement of the regional CSO accreditation policy by our Forum leaders and its extension to national umbrella CSOs.
3. We recommend that a tripartite forum of CSOs, governments and the private sector be established in Forum countries to discuss the implementation of the Pacific Plan (PP) at national and regional levels.
4. The CSO Forum acknowledges and welcomes the inclusion of representatives of CSOs in the Secretary General’s Reference Group on the Pacific Plan.
5. We call on Pacific Island Forum States (PIFS) to ensure there are opportunities for CSOs to develop more links with the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC) and the Forum Officials Committee (FOC) at both national and regional levels and to work with the Secretary General’s Reference Group.
6. Two years after its first draft, awareness of the Pacific Plan amongst Pacific peoples remains inadequate. The CSO forum recommends that resources be made available to CSOs (including women, youth and disability groups) at the national level to ensure that consultation, planning, implementation and monitoring of the Pacific Plan is deeper, wider and more participatory.

## **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

CSOs believe that social wellbeing, cultural values and protection of the environment should be the priority areas for economic development initiatives to enhance the livelihoods of Pacific people. In this context we acknowledge that natural, cultural and indigenous property rights are a basis for economic growth.

WE reiterate the recommendations 1, 2 and 7 on Economic Growth from the Port Moresby Statement and urge that they be implemented. (Attachment A)

We recommend that:

1. As called for by the Apia and Port Moresby Statements, EPA Trade negotiations must be suspended until there has been adequate time and capacity for preparation and a democratic process. This requires sufficient time for a comprehensive social impact assessment, meaningful engagement with Civil Society on the recognition of non-negotiables (including land, public services and public goods) and education of the public as outlined in the communiqué from the Nadi conference on trade capacity building in June 2006 (Attachment B). *Pacific Plan Annual Report (PPAR) 1.1, 1.2, 1.4*
2. EPA trade negotiations should not be restarted unless there is a focus on enhancing sustainable livelihoods at the local level through the full involvement of Civil Society.
3. Negotiations on the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) should not be initiated unless there has been a comprehensive impact assessment, full consultation and democratic decision making.
4. We call for all Pacific governments to work for reform of the deeply unjust processes that apply to countries acceding to the World Trade Organisation, currently involving Vanuatu, Tonga and Samoa.
5. Pacific island governments should urge Australia and New Zealand to develop frameworks and criteria in partnership with CSOs for more access of less skilled Pacific peoples to meet gaps in their labour markets. Mobility of labour should be treated as a development issue and not linked to negotiations on trade concessions by Forum island countries. *PPAR 1.4*
6. The Pacific Islands Forum must recognize the contribution of the unpaid labour and traditional roles of women, youth and elders to wealth creation, which cannot be measured by the instruments of market economics and will not be registered as economic growth.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

CSOs believe that sustainable development is holistically driven rather than economically driven. We recognise that sustainable development cannot exist without self determination for all the indigenous peoples of the Pacific. Furthermore, CSO membership is not limited to the Pacific Islands Forum members and we therefore recommend that regional initiatives should include all indigenous peoples of the Pacific.

We reiterate the Sustainable Development recommendations of the Port Moresby Statement and call for the implementation of these recommendations.

### **Recommendations**

1. The conservation of each country's ecology and society as well as the sustainable use and management of renewable and non-renewable resources should be a major priority of the Forum's environmental, cultural and social initiatives. *Ecology and Culture (PPAR 5.6, 11.1, 11.2):*
2. The Forum Secretariat's proposed framework for understanding pro-poor economic growth in the Pacific with the aim of helping countries to develop concrete strategies, must be developed from the grassroots and within a timeframe that allows full participation of all Pacific peoples. *Reduced Poverty (Pacific Plan Annual Report [PPAR] 4):*
3. Any measures of poverty must take into account the Small Island States Vulnerability Index developed by SOPAC.
4. In order to facilitate poverty elimination in the Pacific, New Zealand and Australia must meet the internationally agreed targets of giving 0.7% of Gross National Income to untied Official Development Assistance by 2015 (MDG 8)
5. Pacific peoples should have the opportunity to define "improved health". Any strategies for non-communicable diseases must go beyond use of tobacco. *Health Initiatives (PP 6, PPAR 6.1):*

6. CSOs urge government to direct relevant regional organisations to take advantage of multilateral environment funding mechanisms such as the Global Environmental Facility, to help fund the implementation of the sustainable development activities of the Pacific Plan. *International Financing (PPAR 5.6)*:
7. The Forum leaders must recognize that indigenous peoples' ownership of customary resources including land, oceans, forests, minerals, traditional knowledge and genetic material, are non-negotiable.
8. The Forum leaders must recognize that the use of indigenous people's customary resources including land, oceans, forests, minerals, traditional knowledge and genetic material must deliver a just, equitable and sustainable returns to resource owners and should not be exploited by local and foreign investors.
9. While we endorse the recommendation that water, sanitation and hygiene challenges be addressed through the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, we stress that access to clean water is a right, a global public good that must not be privatised. *Water (PPAR Recommendation 2[b])*:
10. Australia must sign and ratify the Kyoto Protocol immediately and New Zealand must ensure that it meets its obligations. *Climate Change (PPAR 5.5)*:
11. The Pacific Plan must acknowledge that the relationship between climate change and sea level rise is a scientific reality. Measures must therefore be put in place for affected atoll peoples.
12. There is overwhelming evidence that key symptoms of gender inequality including violence against women, political representation, and sexual and reproductive health, must be addressed urgently. We also call on the Forum Secretariat to provide financial resources for country specific studies that examine the contributory factors to gender violence and to ensure that resources are provided for the implementation of the recommendations of the study. Accurate measurement tools as promised in the Annual Report are not enough to address the gender issues in the region. *Gender (PPAR 8)*:
13. The *Youth Visioning for Island Living* must be implemented immediately. *Youth (PPAR 9.1)*.
14. A Youth Desk should be established in the Forum Secretariat to reinforce the PIFS's commitment to increase youth involvement in the Pacific Region. There should also be a youth desk managed by youths in member countries where one is not already in place as part of the Forum's focal point. *PPAR 9*
15. Support permaculture training as part of vocational training systems. *PPAR7.3*:

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

The approach to good governance in the Pacific is oriented towards externally defined processes and institutions. CSOs recognise the value of traditional governance. Good governance at regional level requires a meaningful "bottom up approach". This would see empowered communities working together with Governments and NGO to identify national priorities which would then be supported regionally. Community governance systems must remain an integral part of the solution to the region's governance challenges.

The Pacific Plan must seriously integrate Pacific and non-Pacific values of good governance. CSOs recognise that good governance must operate at all levels and not be limited to governments. We further recognise that governments must be transparent and accountable at all times.

WE reiterate the recommendations 17, 19 and 20 and on good governance from the Port Moresby Statement and express our disappointment that they have not yet been implemented.

## Recommendations

1. Human Rights must harmonise with cultural customary practices and traditional values. These uphold and maintain the dignity of people (including women, youth, children and all vulnerable people) and promote peace within and between communities. We recommend that these rights practices and values are incorporated into the current development and human rights initiatives of the PIFS. We further recommend the development or strengthening of legislation for the establishment of national human rights institutions and a regional mechanism. *PPAR 12.3*
2. We urge PIFS to encourage the ratification by all member countries of human rights instruments such as CEDAW, ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous Rights and Conventions on Cultural, Social and Political Rights. *PPAR 12.3*
3. We urge the Forum to facilitate a fact finding mission to investigate human rights situation in West Papua, We call on the Indonesian government to dialogue with the West Papua leadership to work towards solving the many issues of concern in the territory. *PPAR 12.3*
4. We urge the governments of France and French Polynesia to give more consideration to democracy and dialogue with land rights groups and trade unions to solve social conflicts around the current problem of land occupation. CSOs consider that the use of the French police force against the Maohi indigenous people is a violation of the principles and the spirit of the Pacific Plan. *PPAR 12.5*
5. In light of current massive immigration from France to New Caledonia, we call on the Forum leaders to lobby the governments of France and New Caledonia to re-instate the clause of the Noumea Agreement according to which the electoral roll will stay “frozen” from 1998 until the referendum on independence. *PPAR 12.5*
6. Special measures must be introduced in domestic law and implemented in all Forum countries to prevent all forms of violence against children, including the ratification of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protect children from involvement in armed conflicts, being sold, prostitution and child pornography.
7. We urge the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to conduct a mid-term review of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) in Pacific island countries in 2007 to effectively and meaningfully contribute to the BMF + 5 targets and plans. We further encourage Pacific island countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related Optional Protocol. *PPAR 12.5, 12.6*

## SECURITY

We emphasize the concept of human security that assures the security of people in their homes, jobs and communities through sustainable development and not through military force or arms; that promotes sustainable management of natural resources, food and health security, protects traditional knowledge and the environment and guarantees self determination.

We reiterate and urge the implementation of Recommendations 21 – 24 on Security in the Port Moresby Statement.

We commend the inclusion of human security in the PPAR statements but note the lack of commitment on implementation of necessary activities.

## Recommendations

1. That the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC) incorporates activities on human security in its annual work-plan and report to Pacific Forum Leaders.
2. We support the recommendations of the Forum Regional Security Council (FRSC) and other regional bodies that are working to enhance regional safety and security and stress the need to match these with national efforts.
3. We recognize the role of women in peace-building and mediation at local levels and during times of national crises, and strongly support the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Women, Peace and Security in June 2006, that urges the incorporation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security into regional and national security mechanisms.

4. We call on Pacific island governments to advocate strongly with developed countries, including Australia and New Zealand, to address externally driven causes of conflict including:
  - inappropriate aid and corruption
  - exploitative foreign investments,
  - theft of traditional knowledge and the Pacific's genetic material
  - inappropriate economic conditions (such as privatization) applied by donors, including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank
  - emissions of greenhouse gases that cause climate change
  - political interference
  - exports, transfer and transport of small arms, nuclear weapons and waste, drugs, and hazardous goods.
5. We urge PIFS to develop an early warning mechanism to monitor potential conflicts in the region utilising the role of CSOs in conflict transformation, mediation and peace building through traditional means.
6. We urge the strengthening of community-based risk reduction and disaster management approached with an emphasis on preparedness and community resilience.
7. We call on PIFS to support the development of national legislation and regional strategies to stop human trafficking, in compliance with international conventions. *PPAR 13.4*
8. We urge PIFS to set up a definite time-frame for RAMSI to achieve its security and development goals.
9. We call on PIFS to lobby France, USA and the UK to accept responsibility for the effects of nuclear testing in the Pacific and to provide access to medical and military archives showing the consequences on the health of individuals affected and the environment.
10. We call on PIFS to support a UN Arms Trade Treaty and to implement the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms at national level including strict controls on armories and home made weapons.

## **SELF DETERMINATION**

We welcome the Forum's commitment to strengthen the involvement of US and French territories in Forum affairs, but believe that the rights and responsibilities of self determination must be extended to all Pacific peoples.

1. We call on Forum Leaders to include Hawaii, West Papua, Tahiti Nui, Rapanui, Wallis and Futuna, on the UN list of non-self governing territories.
2. We ask Forum leaders to:
  - urge the UN to revisit the 1962 New York Agreement on West Papua and ask the UN Secretary General to conduct a review of the UN role in the lead up to the 1969 "Act of Free Choice" in West Papua.
  - Grant West Papua official observer status in the Forum meetings in line with the recommendations of the 2004 Auckland Declaration as recommended in the Port Moresby statement, and further recommend that the Melanesian Spearhead Group accord West Papua similar status.
3. We call on the Governments of Fiji and Papua New Guinea as Pacific members of the UN Special Committee on Decolonisation, to:
  - Ensure that CSOs are represented at the Pacific Regional Seminar of the UN Special Committee;
  - Lobby for the 2008 Seminar to be held in Kanaky-New Caledonia.

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2006

Attachment A – Port Moresby Statement of the 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Civil Society Forum Meeting, 21-24 October, 2005

Attachment B – Nadi Statement on Pacific Civil Society Meeting on Trade Negotiations, 13-16 June, 2006

Attachment C – List of Participants, Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2006

Attachment D – Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2006 programme