



**A NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AID MONITORING,
CSO ACCOUNTABILITY & INFLUENCING THE POST 2015 AGENDA**

20 - 21 NOVEMBER 2014

TANOA PLAZA, SUVA

Opening address: Challenges Facing Civil Society

The 2-day workshop focusing on Aid monitoring, Civil Society accountability and influencing the Post 2015 agenda was officially opened by the PIANGO Board Chairperson – Mr Drew Havea of the Civil Society Forum of Tonga. In his address he



Figure 1 PIANGO Board Chair Drew Havea addressing the workshop

focussed on the transition of civil society from the 1960s to the 1990s and to the new Millennium – and the common thread throughout being the lack of dialogue with Government as well as the lack of a common voice representing people in need. He stressed that as civil society we have been content to remain within our sectors, but it was now the right time to start collaborating with other sectors across civil society, so we can make a bigger ripple. In closing, Mr. Havea emphasised the need for CSOs to be inclusive in their approach so as to make an impact and speak with one voice.

Overview of Workshop

The workshop ran for 2-days between Thursday 20th - Friday 21st November 2014, and covered a range of topics from a variety of speakers & panellists as detailed in the table below:

#	Topic	Speaker/Panelist
1	From Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness	PIANGO Executive Director – Emele Duituturaga
2	Understanding Aid System – Policy, Modalities & Flows - EU Roadmap for CSO Engagement; - Bread for the World +C7	Ms. Rosalba Tuseo Mr. Salesi Savu
3	Models of CSO Funding - Civil Society Forum of Tonga - Fiji Community Development Partners - Development Services Exchange (Solomon Islands) - Samoa Umbrella for NGOs (Samoa)	Ms. Emeline Siale Mr. Michael Brown Mr. Robert Zutu Mrs. Moana Clarke
4	Break-out session: Groups discussed & shared experiences on difficulties in accessing aid information under the country context	
5	Pacific Youth Council	Mr. Manasa Vatanitawake
6	Christian Faith Based Church collaboration with CSO/PIANGO	Mr. Joji Fatiaki
7	CSO Accountability: Where is Civil Society in Fiji 14 years after 'Fiji Civil Society Index Report of 2007'?	Dr. Jacob Mati (University of the South Pacific)
8	Universal Periodic Review	Reverend Akuila Yabaki (Citizens Constitutional Forum)
9	Case study: Civil Society Forum of Tonga – Development of a Code	Ms. Emeline Siale (Executive Director, CSFT)



10	Beyond 2015 Lead with the Leaders WEBINAR	Moderator – Executive Director Emele Duituturaga Mr. Andrew Griffiths Ms. Fiona Hale Ms. Naiara Costa Mr. Peter Batchelor (UNDP Pacific Director) H.E Litia Mawi (Roving Ambassador, Fiji)
11	The Post 2015 Development Agenda	Mr. Peter Batchelor, UNDP Pacific
12	Panel Discussion: - DFAT Australia - NZ Aid	Ms. Joan Yee Mrs. Faga
13	Update on the Fiji preparations & NGO engagement: Post 2015 SDGs	H.E Roving Ambassador for Fiji, Mrs. Litia Mawi
14	FCOSS presentation on the Nadi Consultation	Mr. Neil Maharaj
15	Pacific Beyond 2015 Campaign	Pacific Regional Coordinator (Beyond 2015) – Alanieta Vakatale





Key Outcomes & Recommendations

The Key outcomes and recommendations from the 2-day workshop were as follows:

1. It was recognised that there was a need for civil society to broaden the focus from Aid effectiveness to Development effectiveness and in so doing, address the root causes of problems faced rather than just the symptoms of such problems.
2. The 8 Istanbul Principles of CSO Development effectiveness were developed to serve as a guideline to assist Civil Society to change the discourse from one of Aid effectiveness to Development effectiveness.
3. There was general agreement that umbrella bodies must try not to compete with local national partners or their affiliates for limited donor funds but instead provide technical assistance to their partners.
4. Participants accepted that there was a need for civil society to work with government, and that this required investment of time and effort on the part of civil society.
5. PIANGO to continue to reach out to Christian Faith Based Organisations and civil society, and their leaders.
6. Civil society MUST be accountable to its beneficiaries (member organisations/affiliates, members of the communities we serve, etc) and all stakeholders.
7. FCOSS would be responsible for the conduct of self-assessment of the civil society sector with regard to the Fiji Civil Society Index.
8. In designing its Code of Conduct or Code of Minimum Standards, civil society MUST ensure that such Code meets ALL its needs and speaks to all the issues it is facing.
9. When drafting a Code of Conduct or Minimum Standards for civil society, it is imperative that there is participation at the community level in the drafting of the Code and thus ownership stemming from such an exercise.
10. For the Post 2015 development agenda negotiation process, it is crucial for National Lead Agencies at the ground level – to link the national to the global level in the Post 2015 debate.
11. UNDP Pacific recognised the importance of civil society engagement in the Intergovernmental negotiation for the Post 2015 agenda.
12. Civil society is the Global Positioning System (GPS) for the economy, Government is the Driver and the Private Sector is the Engine. (quote from H.E. L Mawi)
13. On the issue of the Post 2015 Development agenda, civil society actors present agreed that it was important that we collectively push for the adoption of Goals 13 - 17 of the Open Working Groups proposal, as priority.
14. Civil society engagement in national planning is essential in order for us to have development policies which are people-centered.
15. Civil society actors attending the 2-day workshop endorsed PIANGO to act as the voice of Pacific CSOs when presenting at the regional and global Levels.
16. Civil society organisations in the Pacific encouraged to utilise the Red Flags paper issued by the Beyond 2015 campaign and the Copenhagen Outcomes Document as advocacy tools.



17. Civil Society actors within the Pacific, not already part of the Beyond 2015 campaign were encouraged to become part of it by formally joining it using the links available on the Beyond 2015 website.

NEXT STEPS:

Following the above key outcomes & recommendations, in summary it was agreed that the next steps for both PIANGO and FCOSS would be as listed below:

- ④ PIANGO to act as the link between FCOSS and the Global level within Fiji, and replicate the same in other Pacific island nations with its National Liaison Units;
 - ④ PIANGO to create spaces for civil society engagement;
 - ④ PIANGO to facilitate capacity building for FCOSS, and provide technical assistance for a range of issues such as constitutional audit, finance and administration;
 - ④ PIANGO to rigorously pursue the optimum utilisation of its online dialogue platform, “The Pacific We Want” for the benefit for civil society;
 - ④ PIANGO to work on CSO mapping exercise for Civil society and in doing so, work in collaboration with FCOSS; and
 - ④ PIANGO to conduct a follow up workshop focused on the design of a Code of Minimum Standards or Code of Conduct.
-