



Pacific Disability Forum

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Press Release – Opening of 7th PRCD

“We must harmonize our international commitments with our domestic national policies and legislations to make things work for people with disabilities. “

These are the words of the Fiji Assistant Minister for the Prime Minister’s Office, Minister Sakiusa Tubuna at the opening of the 7th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability (7th PRCD) currently underway in Nadi, Fiji.

Speaking to the over two hundred delegates from around the Pacific Region, Mr. Tubuna stressed that the ratification of the UNCPRD is not the final step. He added that it is very important for Pacific Governments to work closely with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

“I suggest that all stakeholders including CSO, private sector and the mechanism within the government system to strategically prioritize and attend to the recommendations. It is very important for states or Government to take hint of the recommendations from the CRPD reports and I suggest that all stakeholders including CSO, private sector and the mechanism within the government system to strategically prioritize and attend to the recommendations.

Speaking on the progress of disability inclusion and the work Fiji has done with regards to the SDG or the Sustainable Development Goals, Mr. Tubuna says that the country is taking a step back to assess the progress in country.

“Fiji will be going through the Voluntary National Report which is done as a monitoring process to see how best we have achieved against the indicators of the SDG. Disability is cross cutting and I hope that the disability sector will work with state or do its own reporting under the guideline of the UN and provide a realistic reporting of the status of disability in Fiji.”

With the theme, “Nothing without us: Deepening Partnership for an Inclusive and Equitable Blue Pacific Continent for Persons with disabilities”, the 7th PRCD has seen over 200 Government Delegates, representatives from Pacific Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, Stakeholders and advocates gather in one venue to discussing disability inclusion, progression as well as way forward.

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), as the peak regional organization of/for persons with disabilities, organizes a biennial Pacific regional conference on disability inclusion as a platform for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to dialogue and network with development partners and other stakeholders to address disability inclusion challenges so persons with disabilities in the Pacific can enjoy and live full and meaningful lives. PDF in partnership with its member organization in the host country, has convened six regional conferences to date, with Conference outcomes shaping PDF's work at the national, regional, and international level.

The Conference is being co-hosted by the Pacific Disability Forum as well as the Pacific Islands Forum. It is currently being held at the tanoa International Hotel.

Should you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact Communications Officer - Paradise Tabucala (+679 8990134)