



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM



Pacific  
Disability  
Forum

## Seventh Pacific Regional Conference on Disability

**“Nothing Without us: Deepening partnerships for an inclusive and equitable Blue Pacific Continent for persons with disabilities.”**

### OUTCOME DOCUMENT

We, the 250 participants from 22 Pacific Island countries and territories, and beyond the Pacific region, representing organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), governments, regional organisations, multilateral organisations, disability service providers, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, donors, and development partners from *Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America and Vanuatu*, at the 7<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Conference on Disability, held in Nadi, Fiji, from Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023;

- Acknowledging the 1.7 million people in Pacific Island countries and territories who are people with disabilities.
- Welcoming the collective vision in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent for a Pacific region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples, including persons with disabilities lead free, safe, healthy, and productive lives.
- Recalling the commitments to disability inclusion made in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016-2025) which sets the strategic direction and remains true to the spirit of ‘nothing about us without us’, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF), and the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023-2032;
- Recognising the challenges posed by the frequent disasters, ongoing climate change impacts, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Celebrating the work being done by the Pacific Disability Forum and its members to analyse progress and gaps toward SDG and CRPD commitments, which has highlighted the need to reinvigorate and deepen partnerships to make our next steps of progress towards disability inclusion and to address the issues of exclusion and inequality by ensuring the principles of inclusivity, equity, and equality;
- And appreciating the support of the co-hosts Pacific Disability Forum and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to bring together representatives from organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), national government disability focal points, and

partners to promote and facilitate regional cooperation and coherence on disability inclusion, to action commitments made, in recognition that to achieve an inclusive and equitable Blue Pacific Continent for persons with disabilities.

- Endorsing outcomes from preceding forums on women, youth, psychosocial, intellectual, and older persons sub-groups.

To achieve the Pacific Disability Forum's vision for an inclusive and equitable Pacific society where all human rights of all persons with disabilities are realised, we all must work together to:

### **Enabling environment**

1. Strengthen and deepen the full, effective, and meaningful participation of all persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in decision-making, noting that we must go beyond tokenistic representation and warming seats, to having the views and recommendations of persons with disabilities being acted upon.
2. Continue the efforts to localise the CRPD and regional frameworks by harmonising legal and policy frameworks, including explicit provisions on children and youth recognising diverse disabilities and implemented with clear costed action plan and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, noting that the CRPD, regional frameworks, and national laws cannot remain words on the page, but action is needed to bring these words to life.
3. Prioritise and resource the six pre-conditions to inclusion of accessibility, community-based inclusive development (CBID), support services, assistive devices, social protection, and non-discrimination.
4. Build on the progress and continue the regular collection of disability-disaggregated data and the barriers to participation that are relevant, timely, reliable, and comparable, and take the next steps of analysing and disseminating information that informs policies, allows for the planning of more inclusive programs, and monitors that implementation is reaching the full diversity of people with disabilities.
5. Encourage and urge our governments to increase the proportion of public spending that is allocated to disability inclusion efforts, noting that 16% of the world's population are persons with disabilities, but overall government spending on disability in the Pacific is currently less than 0.15% of GDP.
6. Encourage and urge our development partners to set ambitious targets for disability inclusion, recognising that some have existing targets.
7. Enhance awareness on disabilities at all levels from national decision making to community and family levels, and support peer-to-peer mentoring, capacity building, inter-generational dialogue, and accompaniment to ensure disability sensitisation.

### **Building resilience**

8. Take stronger action to include people with disabilities in national disaster preparedness planning and response, to ensure that people with disabilities do not continue to be the first victims of natural and man-made disasters including the negative impact of climate change.
9. Ensure that people with disabilities are not left further behind from economic empowerment efforts, and implement inclusive and accessible social protection, employment, and livelihoods support, in order to achieve an adequate standard of living that also cover disability-related costs.

## **Inclusive programs**

10. Ensure the legal frameworks, policies, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation systems are in place, and strengthened where necessary, to achieve CRPD-compliant services and programs, including but not limited to inclusive education, health services, business, leadership, skills-building, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

## **Collaboration and cooperation**

11. Create an efficient regional and multi-stakeholder **funding facility to enhance implementation of the CRPD and the SDGs**, coherence, and coordination of technical assistance, to achieve an inclusive and equitable Blue Pacific Continent for persons with disabilities.
12. Encourage development partners such as the UN to increase disability inclusion in its strategic, operational, and programmatic efforts.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Pacific Disability Forum and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat acknowledge the many and valued partners who have made this regional event possible.

We thank the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, the Pacific Community (SPC), UNICEF, UNFPA, Women Enabled International, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Women's Fund Fiji, Shifting the Power Coalition, Kiliati Enterprise, Post Fiji, Fiji Water, Pleas Beverages, Vodafone, Bondwell, Tapoos, Total Energy, Coca Cola, Fiji Military Force, as well as other funders and sponsors who have all contributed significantly to the success of this memorable biennial conference.

We also thank the Government of Fiji as well as Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation and its affiliates for their warm hospitality and support.

END.

*Annexed to the main conference outcome document are the outcome statement of the various side-events, listed below.*

## **ANNEX**

- 01 – Intellectual Disability Outcome Statement
- 02 – Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Outcome Statement
- 03 – Older Persons with Disabilities Outcome Statement
- 04 – Psychosocial disabilities Outcome Statement
- 05 – Women with disabilities Outcome Statement
- 06 – Youth with disabilities Outcome Statement