



**PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM  
PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM ON WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES  
*Promoting Disability Perspective in the Post 2015 Development Agenda*  
“The Future Pacific Women and Girls with Disabilities Want”**

**DRAFT OUTCOME STATEMENT**

**Preamble**

We, the representatives of women and girls with disabilities from Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs) present at the Pacific Regional Forum on women and girls with disabilities, in Promoting Disability Perspectives in the Post 2015 Development Agenda supported by the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF). Through the delegates to the PDF General meetings from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia, Australia and New Zealand held at the Ramada Plaza, Noumea, New Caledonia on 9 April 2013.

The Women’s Committee of the Pacific Disability Forum recognised at this crucial time in global history, the Post 2015 Development Agenda and its commitments to mainstream disability in the priority themes. This Commitment to Action complements and build on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Incheon Strategy for the new Asia Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2012-2022, the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability, the Pacific Plan, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform of Action, the Revised Pacific Platform of Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality, the Pacific Sister’s Report and the recent Deeper Silence publication,

the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration of 2012, Recommendations and outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women 2007 and 2010, and other relevant Conventions and Strategies.

We acknowledge now is the time for collective action with an inclusive and rights based approach to achieve the goals and targets our governments have set for us in this important agreements and to empower women and girls with disabilities. There is an urgent need to find strategies toward transforming existing development paradigms with an understanding of the deeper structural roots of the crises and intersectional discriminations we women and girls with disabilities face today.

UN agencies, governments and civil society organisation (CSOs) including DPOs have affirmed human rights, equality and sustainability as the core principles to guide the Post 2015 Agenda.

However, it is not possible to realise this principles without addressing the multiple discriminations faced by women and girls with disabilities in the Pacific as a human rights and cross-cutting issue.

The Pacific Sister's Report and the recent Deeper Silence publications show that women with disabilities experience physical and sexual violence, and indicate that women with disabilities may experience more sexual violence perpetrated by strangers or acquaintances than other women. This is of deep concern and requires further investigation, as well as immediate action.

We call on the governments, civil society organisations, the regional organisations and all development partners to mainstream gender and disabilities concerns across all sectors in order to address the needs of women and girls with disabilities and empower them.

## **Economic Empowerment**

We seek greater progress in reducing poverty through better economic outcomes, including employment and entrepreneurship for girls and women with disabilities. We urge governments and the private sector to support economic empowerment and participation of women. This includes:

- increased access to inclusive and mainstreamed education and vocational training, at all levels at primary, secondary, tertiary and post-school/informal levels, ensuring appropriate resources are available
- support for equal access to economic assets, such as micro-finance and other financial support, land ownership, control and use; technology; and other social protection measures

## **Political Participation**

Recognising the valuable contribution that women already make to social change processes as political actors, we call on governments to uphold the rights of women with disabilities to full and equal political participation and decision-making. This includes the rights of women with disabilities to engage in political processes as representatives of political institutions at all levels of governance.

*We call for:*

- Reform legislation and remove other barriers that discriminate against women with disabilities on the basis of gender and disability;
- Enactment of new laws and measures that ensure non discrimination and equal opportunity;
- Effective disability inclusive mechanisms and systems to advance gender equality in the different sectors of government and in all levels of decision-making;

- Promotion and raised awareness of the rights of women with disabilities to political participation and decision-making. This includes through ensuring accessibility of all political
- Adoption of Temporary Special Measures to accelerate representation of women, including women with disabilities at all levels, including through Reservations of Seats;

### **Violence against Women and Access to Justice**

Acknowledging efforts to date, we call on governments, UN Agencies, regional organisations, donors and development partners to:

- Ensure policy, legislation, institutional strengthening and programs to end violence against women with disabilities are prioritised in National Development Strategies, including through budgetary allocations
- Ensure capacity, including in health, justice, safe-shelter and security services, to provide accessible support and respond to violence against women and girls with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, and safe referral, including in remote and rural areas
- Collaborate with national Disabled People's Organisations to develop and implement policies and programs to end violence against women and girls with disabilities.
- Support qualitative research on risk and protection factors to inform policy and programming on violence against women and girls with disabilities
- Ensure access to justice for women survivors, including the provision of legal aid for women and girls with disabilities.
- Improve policing, judicial and legislative responses to violence against women and girls with disabilities.

- Strengthen networks and linkages with the provision of technical support, funding and networking opportunities.

### **Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights**

We recognize, that governments, regional and international agencies should work together with Disabled Peoples Organisation and Pacific Disability Forum and women's rights organizations to urgently address the unmet need not only for family planning but for comprehensive and integrated SRH services for women and girls with disabilities.

We call on governments and agencies in the context of the Post 2015 development agenda to address the unfinished human rights agenda for women and girls with disabilities by ensuring access the quality of SRH services, and strengthen governmental monitoring and evaluation systems so that they are based on human rights principles.

We recognise the social stigma that prevents access for persons with disability to sexual and reproductive health in the full sense of wellness and choice.

### **We call on governments to:**

- Increase access to and accessibility of Sexual and Reproductive Health services and information, including family planning, the availability and use of contraceptives, and Emergency Obstetric Care services for all women with disabilities, including those in remote areas, and with particular attention to adolescent girls.
- Ensure quality of services, including through in-service training for health staff and community health workers.

- Support comprehensive and age-appropriate sexuality education particularly in schools, through church groups, youth groups and in community groups.
- Improve Health Information Systems so that data is disaggregated to inform disability related policies and programs

### **Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction**

Recognizing the great vulnerability of people with disabilities and particularly women and girls with disabilities to natural disasters and climate change impacts,

We call on governments, UN, regional organisations and NGOs to:

- Ensure full and effective participation and contribution by women with disabilities in framing disaster risk reduction processes and climate change initiatives to reflect national and international commitments
- Ensure that disaster preparation, response and rehabilitation activities and climate change adaptation programs cater for women with disabilities, particularly in relation to their mobility, personal safety, access to water, toilets and food, prevention of and treatment/support for survivors of sexual violence, prevention of excess maternal mortality, provision of dignity kits, and on-going provision of contraceptives, medication and assistive devices
- Ensure that when identifying evacuation centres, access for and safety of women with disabilities, including ramps, rails in toilets, and secure toilets and areas for washing are included
- Incorporate the needs of women with disabilities are part of climate change initiatives in terms of technical and financial support
- Ensure that women with disabilities receive information and training about planning for disaster preparedness and what they should do in and after disasters and for adapting to the impacts of climate change

- Ensure that national disaster preparedness committees are trained on how to include women with disabilities in all aspects of their work, including planning and recovery.

We the participants invite leaders of the Pacific to work alongside us in solidarity. We invite our governments, donors, regional agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, parliamentarians, church and traditional leaders, our fellow members of civil society and people in our home and communities, to work with us to “MAKE THE RIGHT REAL” for women and girls with disabilities in Pacific Islands Countries and Territories.

Endorsed by the representatives at the Pacific Regional Forum on women with disabilities from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Federates States of Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, Marshall Islands and French Polynesia held at the Ramada Plaza, Noumea, New Caledonia on 8 April 2013.