



**PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM
PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM ON YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES
Promoting Disability Perspective in the Post 2015 Development Agenda
OUTCOME STATEMENT**

Preamble

We, the representatives of young people with disabilities from Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in the Pacific, namely the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Australia and New Zealand;

Attending the 1st Pacific Regional Forum on Youth with Disabilities held at the Ramada Plaza, Noumea, New Caledonia on 8 April 2013 in Promoting Disability Perspectives in the Post 2015 Development Agenda;

Supported by the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), which recognises 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 the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Incheon Strategy 2013-2022, the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability, Pacific Plan, the Pacific Youth Regional Framework, UN Working Group on Youth, Pacific Youth in Agriculture Strategy, the Global Youth Post 2015 Development Agenda Bali Declaration 2012 and the Rio+20 outcome documents "The Future We Want".

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 these important and ambitious agreements.

We call on the governments, private sectors, non-government organisations, regional organisations and stakeholders to make their commitments in mainstreaming disability in the Post-2015 development agenda on the following thematic areas as priorities.

Governance and Participation:

Call on government to prioritize youth and disability issues in their national development plans.

- Ensure that Disabled Persons Organization (DPOs) are represented on government advisory committees and boards, especially those covering education, employment, environment, and health.
- Ensure that young people with disabilities are represented in DPO boards.
- Encourage regional organisation, community and faith-based organizations to include young people with disabilities in their management and programs.
- Provide opportunities for youth people with disabilities to participate in music, arts and the sports.
- Provide training and other capacity building support to improve and strengthen young people with disabilities' participation in local, national, regional and international fora.
- Improve the collection and analysis of data on the situation of youth, including those with disabilities, for evidence-based policy making.

Education:

- Call on governments to provide inclusive education from pre-school to tertiary as well as informal education for all young people, including those with disabilities.
- Ensure access to quality education at all levels for all young people with disabilities.
- Provide reasonable accommodation depending on individual needs.

Health:

- Recognize that promoting family and traditional values is the basis for better health.
- Improve accessibility to all areas of health services for people with disabilities, including access to sexual reproductive health and rights.
- Call for efficient and effective partnerships with health sectors, NGOs, DPOs, development partners and other government bodies.
- Promote healthy lifestyles through physical activity and consumption of local produce.

Environment:

- *Disaster Risk Management*

- Mainstream disability issues in all aspects of disaster risk management, from preparedness, response to recovery, including the effective participation of young people with disabilities local and national structures.
- Recognize that people with disabilities in disaster responses have special needs that require target responses, for example, they need access to disability-friendly information during disasters, and specialized support during evacuation, and so forth.

- *Climate Change*

- Provide opportunity for people with disabilities to engage in climate change response policies and programs

Employment and Training:

- Call on governments to ratify to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the ILO Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons).
- Call on governments to provide financial and non-financial incentives to the public and private sectors to promote the employment of young people with disabilities.
- Ensure inclusive, accessible and affordable opportunities for training and employment for young people with disabilities.
- Strengthen the capacity of DPOs to support access to training and employment opportunities
- Improve access to enterprise start up finance and support for young people, including those with disabilities

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 young people with disabilities in Pacific Islands countries and Territories.

We thank the Pacific Disability Forum and its partners, AusAID and UNFPA, ILO and others for providing the necessary financial, administrative, technical and related assistance to ensure the success of this regional event.

Endorsed by the participants at the 1st Pacific Regional Forum on Youth with Disabilities in Noumea, New Caledonia on 8 April,2013.