



PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM

**Third Pacific Regional Conference on Disability 8th - 12th April
2013**

Noumea, New Caledonia

Members of the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) including Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, as well as representatives from Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the International Labor Organization, UN Population Fund, UN Women, UN Children's' Fund, the Australian Agency for International Development, Australia-Pacific Islands Disability Support, the Disability rights Fund, The Australian Disability and Development Consortium, International Disability Alliance, the Nossal Institute for Global Health, CBM Australia, and the World Health Organization at the Pacific Regional Conference, Promoted the need to highlight the rights of people with disabilities in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The attendees of the Noumea 2013 Pacific Regional Conference on Disability organized by the Pacific Disability Forum:

- a) recognize there is strong leadership in the disability community, particularly among women and youth,
- b) acknowledge that there is a clear demonstrated record of achievement of objectives by Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs),
- c) note that persons with disabilities are contributing community members, successful students, reliable and productive employees and volunteers,
- d) believe DPOs have proven themselves as excellent advocates on rights based issues to governments and development partners both at the local and at the international levels while working with many local and international laws, frameworks and plans,
- e) welcome the recent addition of French speaking member countries to the PDF family which enhance the strong existing Pacific networks

- f) note DPOs are strongly supported by some key international development partners;
- g) value the Pacific regional frameworks, including the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability (PRSD), the 2012 Pacific Disability Ministers' Communiqué in Port Moresby identified that persons with disabilities should be highlighted in the post 2015 agenda;
- h) value the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as the key International Framework,
- i) value international agreements and frameworks that support the rights of Pacific Islanders with disabilities, including the Incheon Strategy.

The Pacific Disability Forum is made up of DPOs, making their way in different canoes of varying sizes and types, powered by women, men and youths, rowing in the same direction. PDF represents and includes people with disabilities who share the same human right and come from diverse culture. PDF and its members work together on the things that are common to us or to promote a world that is barrier free and rights based.

PDF and its members are on an ongoing common journey to achieve this goals. Together, Pacific DPOs identify the following 17 urgent and tangible steps for development partners, national governments, DPOs and the community in general.

1. Development partners and Pacific Governments are urged to implement the following 17 recommendations;
 - 1.1 Recognize that the voices of DPOs are the most important and must be heard, and incorporated in the development of any laws, policies, programs or projects that may affect persons with disabilities.
 - 1.2 Continuously implement the provisions of the CRPD, recognizing that this should occur regardless of whether countries have signed/ratified the Convention. Support the ratification of CRPD by all Pacific countries, and in this process, work towards compliance with all articles
 - 1.3 Develop, review, update and implement policies that promote the rights of persons with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of social, cultural, educational political and economic life.

- 1.4 Assist DPOs to build their capacity, including attract ongoing resources and support as well as develop leadership needed to engage in the policy and program implementation process, as outlined in *Capacity Building for effective and efficient Pacific DPOs* - PDF and APIDS (2013)
- 1.5 Adopt and implement the recommendations of the Pacific Regional Forum on Youth with Disabilities, Noumea 2013. (attachment A to this statement).
- 1.6 Adopt and implement the recommendations of the Pacific Regional Forum on Women with Disabilities, Noumea 2013. (Attachment B to this Statement), including implementation of the recommendations of the Deeper Silence Report.
- 1.7 Ensure that the Post 2015 Development Goals strongly include persons with disabilities
- 1.8 Use a twin track approach which both provides disability specific services and ensures accessible services and inclusive services for all
- 1.9 Provide early identification and early intervention for children that also supports families of children with disabilities
- 1.10 Review and implement policies on vocational education and training.
- 1.11 Recognize that the community based rehabilitation (CBR) approaches is important to the inclusion and independence of persons with disabilities and needs to extend beyond a health focus to a broader community acceptance of persons with disabilities.
- 1.12 Develop and enforce policies and laws that positively require employment and training of persons with disabilities in Government, business, development agencies and NGOs, including ratification of the ILO Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Training (Disabled Persons). Undertake projects and activities that promote the benefit and opportunities of employing persons with disabilities
- 1.13 In close consultation with DPOs develop policies and programs on climate change and disaster risk management that assists and protects persons with disabilities, including preparedness, response and recovery. Recognise that

persons with disabilities have particular needs and specialist knowledge to impart in all phases of natural disaster

- 1.14 Support inclusive and accessible communications in all meetings on disability.
 - 1.15 The absence of data should not be considered a barrier to prevent immediate compliance with CRPD.
 - 1.16 Ensure the next phase of the Pacific Plan includes objectives related to disability.
 - 1.17 The Secretariat of the Pacific Community SPC and other technical/ specialist Pacific Regional Organizations to include disability as a cross cutting issue at all Programme delivery.
2. As part of their role in this important journey, DPOs as organization governed, owned and managed by Persons with Disabilities are called on to implement the following recommendations.
- 2.1 Advocate to governments and development partners to work with DPOs to implement the above recommendations using a range of strategies including drama, research, partnerships, holding governments and development partners accountable, grass roots advocacy and telling stories of the experiences
 - 2.2 Work together to continually build understanding by DPOs and their members of national and international laws, conventions, plans and other frameworks.
 - 2.3 Support and promote all forms of participation and decision making at all levels of society.
- 2.4 Commission qualitative research undertaken with and by persons with disabilities to identify approaches to achieve CRPD compliance

The Pacific Disability Forum extends its deep gratitude to the Government of Australia, New Caledonia local Government and United Nations Population Fund for their financial assistance, and to all self-funding presenters and participants for their investments which contributed significantly to the success of this biennial Pacific Regional Conference on Disability.



**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.



**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 10th 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.