



6th PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISABILITY

From recognition to realisation of rights:

Furthering partnership for an inclusive Pacific 2030 for Persons with Disabilities

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

We the 260 participants from twenty-one (21) Pacific Island countries and territories of the Youth with Disabilities Forum, Women with Disabilities Forum and the 6th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability titled “From recognition to realisation of rights: furthering partnership for an inclusive Pacific 2030 for Persons with Disabilities”, held in Nadi, Fiji, from Monday, 25th February to Friday, 1st of March 2019, representing organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), disability service providers, Governments, regional and international organisations, universities, and development partners from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu as well as Wallis and Futuna;

- Appreciating the commitments and encouragement of the Fiji Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, the New Zealand Minister for Disability Issues, High Commissioner of New Zealand and the Deputy High Commissioner of Australia, the Deputy Secretary General and Executive Director of UNFPA, the UN Resident Coordinator for the Pacific and the Pacific Islands Development Forum Secretary General, among others.
- Recalling the political commitment of Pacific Leaders to the full implementation of global and regional development agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Sendai Framework for Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Incheon Strategy “Make the Right Real for persons with disabilities” in Asia and the Pacific Region, Framework of Pacific Regionalism (FPR), Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) and the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD).
- Celebrating 15 years of work of the Pacific Disability Forum, the lasting contribution of past leaders, as well as the unique and fruitful regional collaboration between governments, DPOs, regional bodies, UN agencies, and development and donor partners that it has catalyzed and nurtured.

We welcome with appreciation the 2018 CRPD-SDG Regional Report of Pacific Disability Forum, its assessments of recent progress and current efforts of Pacific countries and development partners, promising good practices and remaining challenges as well as its recommendations, as a new tool for national and regional advocacy for DPOs, their allies and partners.

We acknowledge the major progress that has been achieved in recognising the rights of all persons with disabilities as all countries but two in this region have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). There has been significant progress in most countries in terms of awareness raising and engagement between governments and DPOs. Across the Pacific, there are good practices with regards to legal harmonisation, data collection, inclusive education, health, community based inclusive development (CBID), sports, vocational training, access to assistive devices, social protection, women's empowerment, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response among others.

We recognize that:

- There are increasing differences between and within countries of the region with regards to the realisation of rights of persons with disabilities
- Some groups among persons with disabilities face greater marginalization, barriers and multiple forms of discrimination
- More collective efforts should be made to ensure comprehensive accessibility, access to assistive devices, support services, social protection and CBID among others.

We are aware that moving from recognition to realisation of rights will require development of effective legal and regulatory frameworks, greater mobilization of resources, stronger regional cooperation, steady and strong leadership;

We seek to build on our common successes and achievements and are emboldened by the vibrant participation and contribution of a new generation of activists.

To achieve an Inclusive Pacific 2030 for persons with disabilities, we commit to:

- Build and support a more inclusive disability movement which:
 - Accepts all of our differences and identities and celebrates our diversity including those of us with intellectual disability, psychosocial disability, deafblindness, Deaf people and Indigenous persons with disabilities
 - Reaches out to our brothers and sisters in outer islands and remote areas
 - Achieves gender equality
 - Recognises the voice and fostering empowerment of young people across all initiatives
 - Responds to the diversity of national context and situations of DPOs
 - Advocates confidently for the realisation of all human rights of all persons with disabilities
- Extend the collaborative efforts to generate relevant and needed evidence which value people experiences, mainstream disability in development, gender equality and women empowerment, disaster risk reduction and climate change policies, programs and services.
- Step up coordinated and focused investment towards ensuring comprehensive accessibility, access to assistive devices, social protection, support services and CBID which are essential preconditions for inclusion. This includes the development of a Pacific accessibility blueprint, catalyzing regional cooperation on assistive devices and supporting the work of a newly established CBID regional committee among others.

- Deepen partnerships and mobilise the maximum available financial, human, technical and institutional resources towards inclusion of persons with disabilities across regional and national initiatives.
- Develop an innovative regional and multi-stakeholder mechanism in the frame of the PFRPD that would allow pooling of resources, further coordination of technical assistance, and regional economy of scale to provide more responsive support to Pacific countries in their diversity.

Acknowledgements

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We thank the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, Pacific Women, Fiji Women Fund, UnitingWorld as well as other funders and sponsors who have all contributed significantly to the success of this memorable biennial conference.

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