



# PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations  
Association des ONGs des Iles de Pacifique

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## Non Government Diplomacy Exercise on Climate Change



*Kiribati. (Picture: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)*

In October 2008, 82 NGO national platforms from around the world created the International Forum of NGO national platforms or IFP. The members of the Forum ratified six priority themes on which they agreed to share their reflections and work, draw up position papers and lobby governments and international governmental organisations.

This process was given the term Non-Governmental Diplomacy Exercise (NGDE). The exercises decided on are: ODA and development funding; prevention and resolution of conflicts; access to water and sanitation; fight against inequalities and exclusion; regulation of agricultural markets and climate change. For each exercise, it was suggested that one platform spearhead the secretariat of the task force for a period of two years.

PIANGO was selected to spearhead the Non Government Diplomacy Exercise (NGDE) on Climate Change actions in the Pacific region.

## PIANGO Climate Change Advocacy and Communication Workshop



*PIANGO's Interim Executive Director,  
Ms Emele Duituturaga. (Picture: CSO Open Forum)*

As a result and as part of the NGDE, PIANGO will be convening a Climate Change Advocacy and Communications Workshop, in Nadi, Fiji Islands, from 14-16 December, 2011.

The workshop will bring together representatives of PIANGO's National Liaison Units (NLUs) from Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

It will contextualise the global situation on climate change and ensuing challenges and issues as a result of development. Participants will also share Pacific stories, challenges and actions on climate change with a view to consolidate activities.

The workshop will identify and articulate the Pacific's religious and spiritual foundations and contexts in terms of our interconnectedness with God and nature. Communication tools and advocacy strategies at media, local and policy levels will be discussed and the meeting will develop a framework for the production of a manual on climate change advocacy and actions in the Pacific Islands. It is anticipated that the manual will be adapted, translated and used at community and local levels in the region.

## Busan Partnership a Compromise, says Civil Society

*Civil society standards acknowledged but enabling environment remains stumbling block*

“By participating in high level negotiations on aid and development for the first time, people’s organisations can take credit for cementing democratic ownership and human rights in the Busan Outcome Document – but more work needs to be done on advancing favorable conditions for civil society,” said Open Forum Co-chair Emele Duituturaga, in response to the newly-agreed Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.



The Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness – a global civil society platform engaging thousands of organizations worldwide says it is very pleased with the acknowledgement of its main outcomes as the guiding reference for civil society in their development work. Indeed, the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness are both quoted in the Busan Partnership document.

Civil society organisations have said that they are, however, deeply disappointed that commitments from partner governments and donors on providing favorable conditions for people’s organisations to operate are not fully defined according to international rights standards on which they can be held accountable, particularly in light of the growing evidence of a crackdown on civil society in many parts of the world.



*Co-Chair of the Global Open Forum, Ms Emele Duituturaga and Mr Tony Tujan at the Fourth High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, in November 2011.*

“Governments must recognise CSOs as not only social actors but also political actors in the democratisation of our societies. For this purpose, we need an enabling environment that has not been threatened by violence towards CSOs, shrinking political and legal spaces, and a huge lack of financing”, said Ruben Fernandez of the Latin America CSO network ALOP.

Although civil society representatives are proud to be part of the newly forged global partnership, they recognise that they had to compromise. CSOs will therefore continue to pursue a stronger commitment to an enabling environment for civil society to fulfill their role in development by taking the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness forward as the globally legitimate standards for the future of people participation in development. (Source: Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness)

## PIANGO Joins International NGOs to Meet French President

The French President, Nicolas Sarkozy met representatives of 26 international Non Government Organisations (NGOs) in Paris on 2 November, 2011 on the eve of the G20 Summit which took place in the French Riviera city of Cannes from 3-4 November, 2011.



*Representatives of the World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF)at the meeting with President Sarkozy at the Elysee Palace in November 2011.*

The Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations (PIANGO) joined NGO representatives from Africa, Brazil, France, India, the United Kingdom and the United States to meet the French Head of State at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

“President Sarkozy had a very candid conversation with the international NGO community and addressed questions on agriculture and food security, climate financing, the financial transaction tax and tax havens,” said Debbie Singh, PIANGO’s Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

In discussing innovative financing and climate financing, President Sarkozy said France, the European Commission and Germany were the only ones acting on the issue. He went on to say that he saw the Eurozone as being the lead coalition on the issue, with France in its capacity as Chair of the Summit and Germany driving it at the G20, in light of the support of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.



*French President Nicolas Sarkozy meets with international NGOs at the Elysee Palace.*

“PIANGO continues to support the position that global carbon emission levels must drop to 1.5 degrees in order for people in vulnerable and small island states, in particular atoll and coastal islands in the Pacific region to stay alive,” Ms Singh said.

On the issue of food security and land distribution, Senegal’s Momar Talla Kane asked that France insist that the issue be addressed at a global level in light of the need for small scale producers, peasants and farmers to gain access to land.

World Vision (India) Director Dr Jayakumar Christian emphasised that in India food security did not connect with malnutrition and said it is critical that conversations on food security be measured in terms of nutrition – as malnutrition was a humiliation faced by children on a daily basis.

President Sarkozy said that in the midst of a major global financial crisis, the issue of food security was being addressed for the first time at the 2011 G20 Summit, illustrating what he called “considerable progress”.

“We are trying to make the G20 process more inclusive. It should not be a meeting of only Heads of State. NGOs now have access to the media at the G20 venue and can be at the heart of the Summit. There is no longer need for clashes and violence in order for NGOs to make their voices heard,” President Sarkozy said.

## Eurozone Crisis Overshadows G20 Summit

The Eurozone debt crisis overshadowed development issues at the G20 Summit which took place in the French resort city of Cannes from 3-4 November, 2011.

On 3 November, President Barack Obama said the European Union had taken “important steps” to address its debt problems and said he hoped that the heads of the world’s leading developed and developing countries could “flesh out” details of a comprehensive strategy to resolve the crisis.

Sam Worthington, CEO of Washington-based NGO Interaction said: “As world leaders try to address the Greek and Eurozone crisis and seek to stabilise the global economy, they must ensure their efforts are inclusive and do not further marginalise vulnerable populations.

“The G20 leaders must take some steps to generate new forms of resources aimed at addressing climate change and development challenges, endorse regulations that limit tax havens and corruption and approve initial steps that advance greater food security,” he said.

Representatives of the Facilitation group of the International Forum of NGO Platforms (IFP) asked for transparency in the G20, saying the group was “not a replacement for genuinely representative global decision making” and that it must “ensure its meetings supplement, rather than undermine, the work of the UN and other international fora”. The IFP also stated that the G20 must put in place processes to ensure that it is more accountable for its decisions and should do so in an open and transparent way.

The IFP called on G20 leaders to focus on issues such as agriculture and food security, financial integrity and tax havens, corruption, the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) inclusive and sustainable development and civil society access and consultation.

## Rio+20 - Building Our Common Future

Rio+20 is the short name for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012.

Rio +20 is seen as a historic opportunity to define pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all.

Twenty years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, where countries adopted Agenda 21 – a blueprint to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection – the UN is again bringing together governments, international institutions and major groups to



agree on a range of smart measures that can reduce poverty while promoting decent jobs, clean energy and a more sustainable and fair use of resources.

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and address new and emerging challenges.

The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

“Rio+20 is a chance to move away from business-as-usual and to act to end poverty, address environmental destruction and build a bridge to the future,” says the UN

## Broadening the Climate Change Debate

Pacific news at COP17 courtesy of Pacific Climate Change Blog [www.climatepasifika.blogspot.com](http://www.climatepasifika.blogspot.com)  
Climate change goes beyond the direct impacts of well-publicised sea-level rise, an expert from the Pacific region told the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP17) in Durban, South Africa on 3 December, 2011.

“Think food security and health. Think infrastructure; planning and budgeting. Think holistic. These are all interconnected issues that impact our Pacific countries’ abilities to deal effectively with the impacts of climate change,” said Brian Dawson, Senior Climate Change Advisor with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

“People need to know their options for survival and quality of life, and how to effectively adapt to these grave threats,” he said.

Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change was one of the key international issues negotiated at COP17.

Citing the findings of a recently released report from SPC titled “Food Security in the Pacific and East Timor and its Vulnerability to Climate Change”, Mr Dawson said one of the key issues to address in the Pacific was understanding adaptation options.

“Climate change is a very slow, erosive effect in things like agriculture, sustainability of forest systems and ecosystems based on water ,” he said.



Nauruan boy. (Picture: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat).

Tokelau declared a state of emergency in October this year after six months without substantial rain - their primary source of fresh water.

According to Mr Dawson, COP17 must deliver on finance and mitigation issues if the Pacific is to reap any substantial benefits.

“One key issue for the Pacific will be finance – where and how will we get the funds to adapt to climate change?”

COP17 attracted some 20,000 delegates and international climate change negotiators from across the globe. The conference opened on 28 November and closed 9 December, 2011.

*[EDITOR'S NOTE: The COP17 Conference was still underway when this newsletter went to print, therefore we were unable to include the final Conference Communiqué.]*

## PIANGO Management Team

### PIANGO Board Members:

- Mr Drew Havea (Tonga), PIANGO Chairperson
- Mrs Lorine Tevi, (Fiji)
- Mr Hiva Levi (Niue)
- Mr Moale Vagi (Papua New Guinea)

### PIANGO interim Executive Director:

- Ms Emele Duituturaga

### PIANGO Consultant Communications Advisor:

- Ms Debbie Singh

### PIANGO Administrative Assistant:

- Ms Colati Osborne