



PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
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Pacific Regional Consultation for the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga 5-7 May, 2010

“People Centered Development”

OUTCOMES STATEMENT

The Pacific Regional Consultation for the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness was held in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, from 5-7 May, 2010. The meeting was organised by the Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations (PIANGO) and supported by the Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT).

The meeting was made possible through the generous support of Inter Action (United States) and the Commonwealth Foundation (United Kingdom).

PIANGO, as the regional NGO coordinating body, has been given the role to coordinate the Pacific's input to the Global Open Forum process on CSO Development Effectiveness. The Pacific meeting was part of about 70 consultations being held worldwide in the lead-up to the 4th High Level Global Forum to review implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, anticipated for late 2011 in Seoul, South Korea.

The Pacific Regional Consultation discussed the Pacific Islands CSO contribution on development effectiveness for the global Open Forum process; identified areas to strengthen the development practices of Pacific Island CSOs and determined how donors and Pacific Governments could best support CSOs as development actors in their own right. It further identified common principles and guidelines for CSO development effectiveness based on the lessons learned from current and past development practices and evaluated PIANGO's Strategic Plan which expires at the end of 2010.

The Pacific Regional Consultation reaffirmed the need for Pacific people to continue **to preserve key values of their cultures, particularly in the context of the spirituality of the region.** It further affirmed the need for Pacific people to embrace, appreciate, respect and nurture cultural, religious, spiritual and gender diversity and to foster a culture of peace and security.

It noted the need for **people-centred, holistic and sustainable development that envisions and nurtures a community of God's creation for a prosperous and compassionate Pacific**. It further noted the need to empower people to improve their quality of life, to be free from violence, discrimination and poverty and to live with dignity via community oriented, integrated, bottom-up, sustainable human development that recognises them as partners and not as victims – which includes our healthy relationship with people and the whole of creation. It is founded in our spiritual and religious virtues that are embedded in our cultural values.

The meeting also noted the need for **ownership** in the context of development that is relevant and grounded in the needs and issues of the people and which allows beneficiaries to achieve their own development goals via democratic participation that is culturally relevant, at both the macro and micro levels.

On **social justice and fairness** based on integral spirituality, the consultation acknowledged the need to promote equal opportunity, equal and fair access to employment, health, education; equal distribution of wealth and development assistance. It also acknowledged the need to advocate for gender equity and inclusive representation of groups in policy dialogue and high level meetings.

It called for an **enabling environment** through sustained dialogue with government, recognising that governments and CSOs are mutually accountable for development results and further recognising the need to create essential linkages between the public, private and CSO sectors; including alignment and linkages to national development plans and action on existing policy commitments made at national, regional and international levels.

It noted the need for an independent judiciary and media, open engagement with governments, development partners and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, including Pacific Island Forum leaders and/or their representatives with a view to ensure meaningful, sustained and long-term commitments and strengthening partnerships between donors, governments and CSOs.

The meeting recognised the need to **promote democratic practice** through inclusive participation, engaging the public, decision-makers and political leaders in the founding principles of democracy and human rights, based on the will of the people.

On **managing for results**, the meeting acknowledged the need to manage resources and decision-making for results and highlighted the need to develop monitoring and evaluation approaches with clear indicators which measure impacts on the livelihoods of the people.

On **good governance, effective and accountable leadership**, the meeting acknowledged that visionary leadership with integrity, honesty and truthfulness was critical, as was the need for strategic focus and plans ensuring accountability and transparency.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance for Pacific CSOs and people to **become more proactive in the areas of climate change and ecological justice through upholding the integrity of creation** via the promotion of responsible stewardship of the environment; ensuring that CSOs become more proactive in disaster preparedness, mitigation and adaptation and through influencing policy negotiations at regional and international levels.

On **results management and implementation mechanisms**, the need for the development of a Code of Ethics/Conduct and other accountability/reporting mechanisms for CSOs was necessary. The need for leadership and management training and the development of CSO leaders, including the mentoring and nurturing of emerging CSO leaders was also noted; as was the need for community awareness, education and training and the effective dissemination of information.

On **performance indicators**, the meeting acknowledged the need for enhanced CSO capacity to effectively serve communities, engage with multi-stakeholders, avoid aid dependency and become self-reliant. It supported the need to promote exchanges and co-operation between CSO actors and national platforms (National Liaison Units) to exercise effective partnership with government on development policies, strategies and coordination of development actions for sustainability, with consideration of an exit strategy for development assistance.

The meeting called for the **recognition and utilisation of Pacific expertise and knowledge**, including the enhancement of local systems, ideas and capacities within the context of Pacific cultures, traditions and heritage (the Pacific Way).

Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga
7 May, 2010