

The Reality of Aid

An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance



REPORT OF MEETING

REALITY OF AID/PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON AID AND DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

(8-9 JULY, 2011)
NADI, FIJI ISLANDS

REGIONAL CONSULTATION

REALITY OF AID/PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION
OF NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS (PIANGO)

REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON AID
AND DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

(Nadi, Fiji Islands, 8-9 JULY, 2011)

REPORT OF MEETING

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AAA	-	Accra Agenda for Action
AE	-	Aid Effectiveness
CEDAW	-	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CIANGO	-	Cook Islands Association of Non Government Organisations
CSO	-	Civil Society Organisation
CSFT	-	Civil Society Forum of Tonga
CRPD	-	Convention on the Rights of People with Disability
DE	-	Development Effectiveness
ECREA	-	Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy
EU	-	European Union
FCOSS	-	Fiji Council of Social Services
GFG	-	Global Facilitation Group
GPPAC	-	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
HLF4	-	Fourth High Level Forum
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
MNCL	-	Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership
NLU	-	National Liaison Unit
NGO	-	Non Government Organisation
NSA	-	Non State Actor
ODA	-	Overseas Development Assistance
PACER	-	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PD	-	Paris Declaration
PIANGO	-	Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations
PIFS	-	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PLP	-	Pacific Leadership Program
PPA	-	Pacific Platform for Action
RAMSI	-	Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands
SWAPS	-	Sector Wide Approaches
VANGO	-	Vanuatu Association of NGOs

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Regional representatives of Pacific Island Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) met in Nadi, Fiji Islands, from 8-9 July, 2011 as part of regional preparations towards the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) to be held in Busan, South Korea, at the end of the year. HLF4 will assess whether or not key government commitments on aid effectiveness have been achieved since the last high-level meeting in Accra in 2008. The Busan meeting is a key opportunity for governments to go beyond promises and commit to more effective, sustainable development assistance in terms of its real impact on the lives of all people.
2. The Regional Consultation on Aid and Development Effectiveness was jointly organised by the Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations (PIANGO) and the Reality of Aid, based in the Philippines. It was attended by civil society leaders from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
3. The meeting reinforced an international call for people to be brought to the centre of development and that development co-operation and aid effectiveness processes become people centered, respect human rights and focus on achieving social justice as cornerstones of aid and development effectiveness.
4. In recent years, the Pacific region has experienced structural adjustments, political instability and policy changes in its development assistance landscape. Threats to human rights, peace and security being experienced in some Pacific countries have impacted on the enabling environment for civil society and affected the way in which CSOs work.
5. In acknowledging the critical importance of donor support for CSOs, the meeting congratulated the Australian Government on its acceptance of recommendations of an independent aid review to increase development assistance to the Pacific and its emphasis on support to Non Government organisations. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) was also commended on its positive decision to reinstate the post of Non State Actor (NSA) Officer. Regional CSOs said they looked forward to working closely with PIFS in supporting Pacific governments to engage more effectively with civil society.
6. The meeting called on Pacific Island governments to revisit their commitments to Pacific people and CSOs at regional and international levels within the context of the *Pacific Plan* and *Cairns Compact* arrangements. In addition, commitments

made on donor harmonisation in international agreements such as the *Paris Declaration* also needed to be extended to dialogue, resourcing, partnership and collaboration with CSOs.

7. In some instances aid effectiveness processes have been very disempowering for citizens. As a result, CSOs need to now focus on concrete, tangible outputs due to the tendency to focus on donor 'hot topics'. Aid should be about partnerships. Development partners must foster basic principles of partnership and acknowledge the contribution of recipients. In addition, trade and other economic activities need to also focus on human development.
8. An emerging issue in the Pacific region and one that is also a part of the larger development agenda, concerns the rights of people living with disability, who continue to be marginalised and excluded from development processes. Present statistics (June, 2011) illustrate that over 800,000 people are living with disabilities in the Pacific.
9. There is a need for governments and development partners to recognise disability as a development issue. Disability may increase the risk of poverty. In the Pacific, people with disabilities rely on their families for support, assistance and medical care and this must be acknowledged by stakeholders. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also do not make specific reference to people with disabilities.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

AGENDA ITEM 1: OFFICIAL OPENING

1. Ms Emele Duituturaga, interim Executive Director, PIANGO, welcomed regional CSO representatives and PIANGO National Liaison Units (NLUs) to what she termed the “PIANGO Plus” meeting on aid and development effectiveness.
2. Mrs Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member, on behalf of the PIANGO Chair, Mr Drew Havea, welcomed the representative of the Reality of Aid, Ms Ava Danlog, participants and representatives of PIANGO NLUs. She said that the meeting would assist participants to become more involved in the aid discourse and the current reality of global development assistance. She acknowledged the diverse faith groups present, before leading the meeting in Christian devotion and reflection.
3. The Chair, Ms Duituturaga, invited participants to introduce themselves before she introduced the representative of Reality of Aid. Ms Duituturaga said aid effectiveness must be premised around development effectiveness and couched around thematic issues such as gender, human rights, disability, trade and globalisation, labour and so forth. She outlined the process in the lead-up to the upcoming Fourth High Level Forum (HLF4), in Busan, South Korea, in late 2011.

AGENDA ITEM 2: THE REALITY OF AID

- AVA DANLOG, COUNTRY OUTREACH OFFICER ASIA-PACIFIC, IBON/REALITY OF AID

4. Ms Ava Danlog, Reality of Aid, provided an overview of the organisation saying it is a Southern-led, global network of 160 CSOs from the North and South which focuses on reforming aid policies and practices. She also discussed aid and development effectiveness advocacy work and the role of CSOs in the implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) in terms of aid and development effectiveness.
5. The presentation, which focused primarily on development finance, aimed to answer the following questions:
 - What is aid effectiveness (AE)? Development effectiveness (DE)? Why the need to deepen AE to DE?
 - How did the AE and DE agenda emerge?

- What is the crucial role of CSOs in democratic development, in the context of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and in the AE and DE agenda?
 - Why should CSOs engage in this agenda?
6. International development cooperation in development finance come in various forms — project aid, program aid, budget support, sector-wide approaches (SWAPS), food aid, untied aid, tied aid and technical assistance. Whether bilateral or multilateral approaches are used, aid should be disbursed around the principles of solidarity, equality and mutuality or mutual cooperation and benefit.
 7. After USD 2.3 trillion of aid over the last 50 years, the world is nowhere close to realising ODA's professed aim of eliminating poverty, famine, disease and war in the world. Debates on aid refer generally not only to quantity demands but also quality demands. Aid effectiveness, led by OECD, is about "improving the management, delivery and complementarity of development cooperation activities to ensure the highest development impact."
 8. The first attempt and High Level Forum to reform the aid process was made in Rome in 2003, resulting in the *Rome Declaration on Harmonisation*. This was followed by the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* (2005) and subsequently, the *Accra Agenda for Action* (2008). The AAA, via the international community, donors and governments formally agreed to work with CSOs to make development more effective. The Fourth High Level Forum (HLF4) to assess the impact of aid effectiveness will be held in Busan, South Korea, in 2011.
 9. The Paris Declaration (PD) and AAA were highly technical processes which did not seriously focus on some of the political, social and economic challenges of each country and were not always mindful of local contexts or responsive to local needs. In addition, the PD is gender blind, non holistic (incoherence in global agreements, institutions and policies) and lacks independent ways to measure the impact of its principles.
 10. Development effectiveness is a new approach to development co-operation. It promotes sustainable change that addresses the root causes as well as the symptoms of poverty, inequality, marginalisation and injustice through the diversity and complementarity of instruments, policies and actors. This approach positions poor and marginalised populations as central actors and owners of development, challenging many of the current approaches to aid effectiveness. DE addresses human rights, social justice, gender equality and ecological sustainability.

11. The HLF4 in Busan will attempt to draw conclusions from Paris and Accra, but brings the international development community to the question: Will Busan usher in the third generation of reforms that will reframe AE into DE and put human rights, social justice, gender equality and ecological sustainability central to aid relationships and the broader development process?
12. CSOs are innovative agents of change and social transformation. Their developmental role is expressed in their concern for human rights, social justice and democracy. They play a crucial role in advocacy and monitoring. The campaign for reform in aid quality contributes to the promotion of democratic governance and human rights. For Southern CSOs, Busan is an important landmark to push for the development effectiveness agenda as the new aid reform.
13. A video entitled: *Civil Society Voices for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness* part of Ms Danlog's presentation.

Discussion

14. Participants noted the process of change takes time and this needed to be taken into consideration in the AE and DE process. They queried the possibility of independent donor bodies in terms of aid implementation to ensure donors and not recipient governments, made final decisions on development assistance.
15. There is a lack of information on aid effectiveness and the process is largely donor driven. The Pacific faces vulnerabilities and is an aid dependant region.
16. Aid should be about partnerships. Development partners must foster basic principles of partnership and acknowledge the contribution of recipients. In some instances, aid processes have been very disempowering. Trade and other economic activities need to also focus on human development. Along with a program ownership and partnership approach, there is need for better implementation and monitoring of aid sustainability.
17. Private sector involvement in the DE process does not appear to be clear, however donors see the private sector as the engine of economic growth.
18. DE concept is fairly new to some CSOs and need to personalise the concept. Human rights should already have been central to DE and AE processes; neo colonialism continues to affect aid in the Pacific region, capacity building is needed in DE and AE, need for CSOs to focus on concrete, tangible outputs. Fragmentation of CSOs into by donor organisations, need for more transparency and information sharing by donors.

19. Whose obligation is it to give? Is development assistance legally or ethically binding? What is the extent of participation in DE discussions and the processes around AE?
20. Umbrella CSO bodies have an important role to play and collaborate with other development actors to influence regional and global agendas and give voice to the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. Youth, women, men and community voices need to be combined to advocate on real and pressing issues affecting our region such as climate change, food security, human rights, gender, disabilities and trade.
21. Capacity development must be nationally driven with recognition of local knowledge. Aid plays a critical role but is also about development and economic processes and the realisation of human rights.
22. The role of the private sector features very strongly in the last Outcome Document for Busan, recognising it as the engine room for economic growth and development. However, the private sector cannot be held accountable for economic development and does not account to communities.
23. The *Cairns Compact* needs to include the development of civil society and not merely focus on the private sector.

AGENDA ITEM 3: COUNTRY REPORTS & SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

— *Chairperson: Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member*

24. The representative of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) Ms Virisila Buadromo, reported on the Fiji national Reality of Aid workshop, held in Suva on 7th July, 2011.
25. The Fiji National Consultation noted:
 - The challenges of accessing development assistance in volatile and politically unstable, undemocratic environments;
 - The need for closer CSO collaboration amongst their peers and the need for more coordination between government and CSOs. Collaboration should recognise different ways of CSO work and mobilisation.
 - The need for CSOs to be accountable to their communities and constituents.
 - The need for CSOs to develop appropriate self-monitoring mechanisms and templates to avoid using donor and logframes.
 - The need for development partners to acknowledge the contribution of CSOs in education, employment and so forth.

- The various forms of CSO engagement, particularly for those working in volatile political environments. For instance, some NGOs trying to engage with governments through peace and development plans and facilitate dialogue between government officials and CSOs. However, in so doing, there is a need to be mindful of creating “government CSOs”.

COUNTRY REPORT: KIRIBATI

- Kiribati has not signed onto the *Rome Declaration* due to restrictions
- Restrictive adherence to donor procurement requirements
- Have not seen good practice documents due to lack of publicity & information
- Ownership (PD) – CSOs draw up development strategies but officials are not engaged
- Alignment (PD) – have seen donors aligning with development strategies and use Government systems but have found acquittal requirements difficult
- Harmonisation is primarily between government and donors and does not involve CSOs (provide training for CSOs to follow donor procedures)
- No results indicators, making management for results difficult
- No evidence of accountability so far with government and CSOs
- Poor relationship with government
- Major donors - Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada
- KiriCAN speaks the same language as government; however, there is need for specialist NGOs and national umbrella to work together.
- NZAID core funding until 2010
- Internal conflicts within KANGO and Board
- Competition between KANGO and members for donor funding
- Donors face huge demands due to low CSO and government capacity.

COUNTRY REPORT: NAURU

- Faced a rapid shift from a very rich to a very poor country
- 2005 first donor roundtable – donors introduced as development partners
- Corporatisation of public utilities
- 51% of national budget is Aid supported
- Lack of CSO participation
- NIANGO collaboration blocked by government
- Submission on the Cairns Compact has been made to PIFS, noting the absence- no reference to NGO/CSOs
- First peer review resulted in structured dialogue between government & NGO
- Recommendations – reinstate NSA focal point in PIFS, human rights training; implement peer review recommendations.

- Labour mobility: consider migration and integration of workers to neighboring PICs
- Smallness and remoteness of the island is a limiting factor to engagement in regional and global processes.

COUNTRY REPORT: PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- The Melanesian Centre for Leadership (MNCL) has a membership of 200 organisations.
- PNG is a country of six million people
- Increased mining – extractive industries
- Land grabbing by politicians and others
- Technology – increased crimes organised through mobile phones
- Stable government but lack of respect for government by some sectors
- Private sector is supported by Government
- HIV/AIDS continue as problem
- No peak body in PNG – therefore not one voice
- PNG was not a big player in the *2005 Madang Declaration; 2008 ACCRA; 2009 Alotau meeting;*
- In 2010, a PNG MP complained that at least 46% of Australian assistance “boomeranged” back to Australia through consultancies and service providers.
- Competition between INGOs and local NGOs
- Never before has a country seen so many people, doing so little with so much money.

COUNTRY REPORT: SAMOA

- Population 180,000
- SUNGO has enjoyed an overall good relationship with government and fills the gaps which government misses, empowering people with knowledge in various areas such as human rights, health, food security, economics etc
- NZAID has been SUNGO’s primary funder, however NZAID ceased funding SUNGO in 2011 forcing the organization to seek alternative sources of funding (EU, China etc)
- Govt holds the purse strings and doles out money as they see fit. SUNGO is opposed to this and feels this removes the autonomy of SUNGO. SUNGO relies heavily on this funding to carry out its objectives and support to the community.
- The most significant factor missed by donors is money channeled to education and capacity building.
- There is a need for more education and expertise to sustain projects.

COUNTRY REPORT: SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Solomon Islands is a post conflict country.
- Development funding is available but not accessible.
- Donors want tangible results.
- Ownership of aid and development are presently different questions. Hope that these two can merge eventually.
- Shifting donor goal posts and government attempts to satisfy donors rather than addressing the situation on the ground.
- Implementation period – DSE members cannot sustain the implementation of programmes post-funding.
- EU has set up a programme which is a replica of DSE. This has limited DSE's access to funding.
- DSE is wary of the large number of researchers, universities and consultants attempting to access information. Whilst they need DSE, they do not see the need for DSE.
- Cross cutting issues – government seeks DSE contribution in some areas but excludes DSE from receiving any benefits from government.
- Weary of donor pep talks.
- DSE regrets the loss of its core funder, NZAID. DSE members understand procedures and reporting mechanisms of both NZAID and AusAID.
- Aid, in terms of volume, is effective in the Solomon Islands. Development, on the other hand, is not. Peoples' needs are still not being met.

COUNTRY REPORT: TIMOR LESTE

- Post-conflict country
- FONGTIL is the NGO umbrella organisation in Timor Leste
- Portugese influence, Catholic (99% of the population) thus a very large percentage of development funding is allocated to the Catholic Church (1.5 million for each of the three Catholic dioceses). Government does not set funding criteria for the Catholic Church. CSOs apply for remaining funds based on specific criteria and within budget limitations.
- Money is invested in the country but have no knowledge of where it is being allocated.

COUNTRY REPORT: TONGA

- Tend to speak same language as government and donors – use same language but mean something different.
- Not many CSOs are involved in the design of the national plan (seen as roadmap for the country).
- Bottom line is sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.

- Domestic accountability versus mutual accountability.
- Government has a different relationship with donors and CSOs have asked for accountability in terms of inclusion in national planning processes and project design etc.
- Tonga National Plan is based on sectoral approach.
- CSFT Code of Conduct has been developed and now working with sectoral groups (women, youth) to develop a Leadership Code for Tonga.
- Prioritising of activities is important – cluster exercise.
- Area being studied now is recognition and representation – need for government to recognise the role and contribution of CSOs.
- Need to consult and share information with members.
- Need to focus on evidence-based approaches. Interesting that we often talk about govt. accountability but we don't often challenge accountability at the community level
- NZAID stops funding at the end of July. Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) looks to pick this up – allows CSFT to reflect on its direction.
- Prioritising is important
- Recognition/Representation – need to be more focused and evidence based research.

COUNTRY REPORT: TUVALU

- No National Aid Policy
- Limited sharing of information as well as involvement on aid effectiveness and development
- CSOs lack capacity
- CSOs not involved in national budget planning
- Complexity of Aid and Accessibility
- Changes in donor priorities and criteria
- Need a National Aid Policy that promotes and encompasses good governance and democratic processes and in line with national developments
- CSOs recognised as development partners in their own rights
- CSOs awareness raising, mobilisation and capacity building
- Encourage partnership in development, ownership self reliance and sustainability.

COUNTRY REPORT: VANUATU

- VANGO has 110 members – national, community and international. Funded by NZAID and partly AusAID.
- Government constantly challenged by political instability. (19 Prime Ministers in 15 years)
- Lack of coherence in the aid coordination unit of government.

- Stakeholder consultation was organised in 2011 to monitor implementation of PD. Currently no mechanism to monitor effectiveness of aid.
- No Freedom of Information Act but Vanuatu press is largely free. Transparency Act?
- In 2006, 60% of all children lived below the basic needs poverty line.
- No legislative instrument for gender equality. One female in 52 members of Parliament.
- No reliable data on aid flows
- No freedom of information legislation
- No legislative instruments for gender

COUNTRY REPORT: COOK ISLANDS

- Started in the 1980s
- Government recognised CIANGO as the CKI umbrella
- Registered 8th March 2010
- Have developed a Workplan December 2009-Feb 2010
- National executives, affiliated members 40, associate 18, outer island 11
- Engage in promotional work via media etc to rebuild relationship with members, leaders and stakeholders
- Fund raising programs
- Represent CIANGO in various workshops etc at international and regional level
- NGOs moving away from CIANGO due to problems with previous executives. Attempting to rebuild public confidence and its public image via media and promotional work.
- Way forward:
 - Seek financial assistance for office and at least one paid staff member. Presently all volunteers.
 - Rename the organisation to restore public confidence (under discussion)
 - Elect new national executive
 - Restructure, strategise and plan for next five years
 - Continue to promote the organisation
 - Focus on sustainable development projects, spiritual etc
 - Promote DE via media etc

AGENDA ITEM 4: WHAT IS THE PATTERN OF AID DONORS IN NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA AND OTHERS IN THE PACIFIC?

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ACFID)

— *Catherine Blunt, ACFID*

26. ACFID is an umbrella organisation of Australian NGOs. ACFID is very politically savvy and spends a lot of time with politicians. ACFID has developed a Code of

Conduct and plans to continue assisting its members to implement and meet requirements of the Code.

27. AusAID has just released an independent review of aid effectiveness and the aid landscape over the next five years. This is something that ACFID has lobbied for and has been involved in. All ACFID recommendations were accepted by the government. The review discusses development effectiveness in the context of people, recommending a focus on people, not poverty alleviation. It encourages labour mobility, strengthening of civil society and the private sector and suggests a need for coherency in funding of CSOs in the Pacific. Australian aid will double in the next five years, going from \$4 to \$8 billion, with Asia-Pacific still being the primary focus. In addition, AusAID will focus on strengthening civil society with a firm policy of coherency, gender equality and increasing funding to NGOs. AusAID values the Pacific and ACFID is lobbying on behalf of the Pacific.

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CID)

— *Wren Green, CID, NEW ZEALAND*

28. Various structural and policy changes have occurred in the development assistance landscape in the Pacific Island region. NZAID has been replaced by the International Development Group, a part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. New Zealand's ODA is now aligned with foreign policy and trade objectives. The NZ government is looking to push the country's comparative advantage and is focused on outputs as opposed to outcomes. There is a global move to get private sector involved with ODA.
29. This came as a 'wakeup' call for CID, which admitted it had become too reliant on Government funding, but members now contribute a higher percentage to its reduced budget.
30. A key role is to keep the CSO sector together. There is a need for solidarity and for CSOs to speak with one voice.

Discussion

31. Clarification was sought on the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) relationship with the Fiji government. FCOSS said the relationship was a "kiss and kick" one with the Fiji government having a policy of funding those organisations who provide "direct services" (e.g. capacity building, advocacy on substance abuse, networking and so on). However, FCOSS does work with the Fiji government in specific areas and has been given the space to speak on behalf of CSOs.

32. How can Fiji bridge the gap between CSOs and government while avoiding conflict? Are there any other alternative approaches to persuade government to think along civil society lines?
33. Donors and governments tend to drive wedges between CSOs and they must be made aware of this. The diversity factor amongst Fiji civil society groups has meant that many CSOs have had to reconsider their rules of engagement with the Fiji government and ministries. CSOs need a safe space to engage with governments and vice-versa.
34. An emerging issue in global discussions has been that of CSOs working in conflict and post-conflict situations and the nature of civil society having to operate within these structures (e.g. Fiji, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands). Another tension emerging at the global level is the dynamic between service delivery and advocacy for human rights. There is a need for CSOs to look at how to harness these two so that aid is not used as leverage.
35. Kiribati CSOs are working on improving the poor relationship between themselves and the government. KiriCAN has a good working relationship with government in the area of climate change. CSOs presently work with Kiribati's main donors (Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States) but need to collaborate more closely and practice good governance. Competition for donor funding is an issue between the national umbrella, KANGO, and its members.
36. A lack of capacity within Pacific governments and a high staff turnover often makes it difficult to follow through on discussions and civil society often retains more institutional memory than government officials.
37. The NZ government's new economic policy and its subsequent funding cuts are affecting CSOs throughout the Pacific region.
38. The issue of "Boomerang aid" continues to be relevant in the region with up to 50% of Australian aid to PNG being returned to Australia in the form of consultancy fees and the purchase of Australian products and services.
39. Multilateral agencies have placed aid conditionalities on governments vis-à-vis land issues and their political impact on the disbursement of development assistance in the Pacific.
40. Aid funding pouring into Samoa remains at government level and does not get down to CSO level. There is a need to move away from the "begging bowl syndrome." AusAID has committed itself to accelerate its aid to Samoa and

- Vanuatu and civil society must be represented on ODA committees. Donor harmonisation in Samoa has meant that CSOs must go through government in order to access funding.
41. CSOs continue to demand transparency in the disbursement of ODA. SUNGO persistently questioned the Samoan government over the issue of missing millions in tsunami funding and this was partly the reason why SUNGO lost their office in 2010.
 42. SINPA is an AusAID initiative - Solomon Islands NGO Partnership Agreement (SINPA).
 43. Dual economy system and the inflation impact on the cost of food and rental in the Solomon Islands has become an issue as a result of huge amounts of aid being poured into the country through the Australian Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).
 44. What is the rationale for the European Union (EU) NSA development initiative between the Solomon Island government and the EU. Does this mean that NSA's must now access EU funding through governments? In this context, there is a need to take account the role of NSAs as highlighted in the *Cotonou Agreement* and hold national governments and the EU accountable to this.
 45. The Timor Leste Constitution requires a 30% quota of female members of Parliament. Timor Leste has eight women in Parliament. The country has ratified seven international conventions, one of which is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
 46. The Tuvalu Trust Fund has proved a very successful initiative, however, it is disturbing that there is no aid policy in the country to ensure accountability.
 47. NZAID pulled out of Vanuatu for almost seven years, however, funding has been re-negotiated and secured due to the diligence of the VANGO Board.
 48. Technical assistance was sought from ACFID in terms of capacity building to understand the aid architecture landscape. Participants also re-emphasised the need for ACFID to continue to lobby with the Australian and New Zealand governments to fund Pacific CSO umbrella bodies.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CSO AND DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS: THE PACIFIC SETTING

–*Emele Duituturaga, interim ED, PIANGO & Co-Chair of the Global Facilitation Group*

— *Chair: Drew Havea, PIANGO Chairperson*

49. Ms Duituturaga discussed CSO and development effectiveness in the Pacific context saying there was a need to situate the subject within the context of the 2000 *Millenium Declaration* and the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.
50. She backgrounded the Pacific preparatory processes leading to Accra and Paris, Pacific Preparations for HLF3 and noted the *Pacific Aid Effectiveness Principles* which Pacific leaders endorsed as recognition of the *Paris Declaration*. The Paris Declaration is focused on aid modality and not on development outcomes such as ending poverty and hunger, gender, human rights etc. Therefore, the MDG focus is the way to proceed. The Pacific CSO focus should be on the aspirations of 6 April 2004, endorsed by Pacific Island leaders in the *Auckland Declaration* and the *Pacific Plan*.

AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT FROM CAMBODIA

Second Global Assembly on CSO Development Effectiveness: The Siem Reap Experience

— *Hassan Khan, Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)*

51. The second Global Open Forum was convened in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 28-30 June, 2011. It brought together over 200 CSOs from across the globe to endorse the contents of the *International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness*. Partner government and donor representatives and other development actors were also present in Cambodia. Whereas the First Open Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, in September 2010, laid the foundation for the International Framework by facilitating the adoption of the eight *Principles of CSO Development Effectiveness*, the second Global Assembly aimed to finalise the Framework as a political statement on the road to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, in December 2011. This resulted in the unanimous endorsement of the *Siem Reap Consensus* – an international framework for CSO development effectiveness.
52. The document has been termed the “greatest gift of the first generation of CSO leaders to the next wave of leaders”. It is the culmination of almost three decades of struggle for acceptance and recognition of social and community leadership, and of making the difference to the lives of people.
53. Mr Khan noted, with gratitude, the enormous inspiration in the speech by the Open Forum Co- Chair and PIANGO interim Executive Director, Ms Emele Duituturaga who, he noted, has been working tirelessly for over a year with the Open Forum Process. Ms Duituturaga, in her speech, said that the finalisation of

the International Framework was a new opportunity for creating the multi-stakeholder dialogue and was the CSO contribution to the HLF4 in Busan and beyond, for decades to come. He commended Ms Duituturaga for offering her skills and knowledge and for her voluntary commitment to PIANGO and to the Pacific region.

AGENDA ITEM 7: AID EFFECTIVENESS FROM THEMATIC PERSPECTIVES

(i) Gender Equality and Women's Rights

- *Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, FEMlink Pacific*

54. In Fiji FemLINKPACIFIC uses a community media platform to enable and enhance a Women, Peace and Security architecture, using community radio and monthly dialogue processes as a peacebuilding tool focusing on conflict prevention and enhancing women in decision making at local and national level. FemLINKPACIFIC are members of the National Council of Women Fiji, NGO-CHR and Fiji Media Watch.
55. FemLINKPACIFIC is also Convenor of the Pacific Secretariat of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) with national convenors in Bougainville/PNG, Solomon Islands and Tonga.
56. FemLINKPACIFIC engages peace and security dialogue at Fiji country level through UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325) advocacy, GPPAC Pacific, UNDP Pacific CPAD process; Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security – upcoming side event at the PFL Meeting, Auckland in September 2011 following up from FRSC June 2011 meeting; linkages to UNDP Pacific Centre-PIFS Security Sector Governance programme in particular CSO oversight and the annual UN Security Council Open Debate on UNSCR1325.

(ii) Disabilities

- *Katabwena Tawaka, Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)*

57. Disability is an emerging issue in the Pacific and is part of the diverse issue of human rights. There is a need for governments and development partners to recognise disability as a development issue. Disability may increase the risk of poverty. In the Pacific, people with disabilities rely on their families for support, assistance and medical care and this must be acknowledged by stakeholders.

The *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) also do not make specific reference to people with disabilities.

58. Present statistics (June 2011) indicate over 800,000 people living with disabilities in the Pacific. They are often marginalised and excluded from aid and development processes. There is however, growing international awareness to include people with disabilities in all development initiatives. There is also a need for governments and development partners to recognise disability as a development issue. Disability may increase the risk of poverty. In the Pacific, people with disabilities rely on their families for support, assistance and medical care and this must be acknowledged by stakeholders.

(iii) Trade and Globalisation

- *Lice Cokanasiga, Pacific Network Against Globalisation (PANG)*

59. The Pacific Network Against Globalisation (PANG) plays a watchdog role on trade issues and their impact on development in the Pacific. It examines how aid drives trade negotiations and works in aid effectiveness through its partner organisation, AidWatch.

60. Current issues in the area of aid, trade and development in the Pacific include the negotiations around the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus), labor mobility, training and challenges regarding the physical infrastructure of the region.

(iv) Human Rights and Development

- *Seema Naidu, SPC Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)*

61. Human rights is a new area in the Pacific. Human rights NGOs get stigmatised, donors are cautious. Many Constitutions do not contain basic rights (e.g. the right to water etc), thus need to rely on international conventions to ensure this.

62. Absolute or Non Absolute Rights: Some rights are absolute (freedom from slavery etc). Some rights are not and can be removed but must be justifiable in a democratic country.

63. Development must focus on countries' ratification and implementation of Human Rights Conventions. Primary responsibility of implementation is that of the State. Only a few PICs have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons (CRPD) with Disabilities.

64. The Pacific as a region, has the lowest level of ratification and reporting of international conventions. Umbrella NGOs should be part of the reporting

process. Tools to monitor development effectiveness must be developed and CSO roles need to be defined in government reporting processes.

65. Use existing regional and international frameworks as instruments to monitor progress (e.g. the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights*, the *Pacific Plan*, universal periodic reviews, and so on. Reports should reflect development effectiveness.

(v) Community Empowerment

- *Sirino Rakabi, Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA)*

66. The Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA) began as a research group for the Fiji Council of Churches following the coups in Fiji and the ensuing racial tension and fundamentalist and nationalistic influences by some sectors of society such as the *Taukei* group within the Methodist Church.

67. ECREA works to strengthen relationships between people of all faiths, promote Christian perspectives on all issues, train community leaders and advocate on current issues in areas such as youth, economics, information, social empowerment and peace.

68. ECREA is about facilitating deep-rooted change through focusing on structural causes rather than symptoms. All ECREA programmes focus much effort on trying to understand the root causes of issues, develop contextual appropriate approaches, implement approaches that do not raise expectations, and build positive life-giving relationships.

69. In the "culture of silence" prevalent in some Pacific countries, people are taught to remain obedient, silent, dependent, passive (*io saka*). They are tamed or domesticated and oppressive traditional structures reinforce this behaviour.

70. ECREA uses sustained dialogue and social analysis to promote social justice and build relationships, social cohesion and collaborative efforts to analyse and understand issues, policies, structures and systems.

Discussion

The following were noted in discussions after all presentations:

71. Security needs to be defined beyond the police and army. There is the mentality by government that security issues are around police and army and this needs to

change. Young people must also be more involved in the dialogue around peace and security.

72. There is a need to rely on existing regional entities to influence gender issues. There is a need to question how gender policies are being implemented in the region. It is not just about women in development but about changing structures. Radical feminist organisations usually approach donors for direct finance. Government often uses this to accuse these groups of pushing an international, not a Pacific, agenda as these organizations are not pushing the status quo.
73. Women's groups are not all the same. Diversity is important; women need to mobilise around key issues and debate is healthy. We can come together from different backgrounds but can strategically focus on sectoral issues and bringing gender, human rights and gender equality to the forefront and inform global structures. Gender and human rights are major components of development effectiveness. There is a need to push governments to link back to commitments on gender and human rights in the *Pacific Platform for Action (PPA)* and the *Beijing Programme of Action (BPOA)*.
74. National platforms need to focus on working on the deeper advocacy issues at the global level. Umbrella organisations need to discuss how to give voice to the deeper concerns at national level in bringing together women, church and men's voices to advocate on issues such as climate change etc.
75. The issue of disabilities is reasonably new in the Pacific context but it is also new for some groups who work in the area overseas. Specific groups exist to bring NZ NGOs doing overseas development work to include people with disabilities. It is an issue which needs awareness raising at all levels around the world to make development more effective.
76. The building of the naval base in Guam and the participation of Fiji and other Pacific Islands in that initiative is part of national security.
77. There is need for CSOs to push Pacific governments to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

AGENDA ITEM 8: SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF THEMATIC ISSUES

- Emele Duituturaga, Interim Executive Director, PIANGO

Key issues highlighted:

- Links between gender, peace and security
- Community radio as a communication tool

- Holding governments accountable to commitments made and conventions signed
- Participation in budget submissions and monitoring government spending
- Role of NLUs to pull CSO issues together
- Need for PIFS NSA officer to work strategically with other PIFS Advisors
- Inclusion of people with disabilities
- Ensuring that development has a human face
- Making human rights the backbone of development
- Important for umbrella NGOs to support the process of shadow reports
- Political and volatile working environment
- Collaboration
- Accountability (of ourselves, communities and government)
- Relationships with donors and governments
- Emergence of private sector and corporate foundations
- More control by government of funding to CSOs

AGENDA ITEM 9: Where Next, Where To?

- *Ava Danlog, Reality of Aid*

- Global Asks
- Endorsement of Istanbul Principles and International Framework
- Development of Pacific Code (ACFID Code)
- Key messages for PIFS
- Input Pacific statement to the Forum Organising Committee (FOC) for September PIF Leaders Meeting (CID)
- Auckland CSO “moment”
- Pacific team to Busan

78. CSOs are calling upon all development actors to achieve a bold forward-looking outcome at the Busan Fourth High Level Forum. Substantial progress in four inter-dependent areas of reform is essential for a meaningful and ambitious *Busan Compact on Development Effectiveness*.

80. Global CSO Key Asks

- Fully evaluate and deepen the Paris and Accra commitments;
- Strengthen development effectiveness through practices based on human rights standards;

- Support CSOs as independent development actors in their own right and commit to an enabling environment for their work in all countries and
- Promote equitable and just development cooperation architecture.

Key Messages for PIFS

- *Wren Green, CID*

81. Participants were asked to consider a Pacific CSO Statement to the Forum Organising Committee (FOC). The representative of CID suggested that the CSO Outcome Statement of the Commonwealth Foundation meeting (Sydney, May 2011) be considered for adaptation and urgent presentation to the FOC.

ACFID Code of Conduct

- *Catherine Blunt, ACFID*

82. The Code forms part of the ACFID Constitution and has been revised over the past three years. It provides a good practice standard; acts to manage reputational risk; increases stakeholder confidence and trust; keeps external regulatory mechanisms at bay; is set by the sector for the sector; contributes to development effectiveness; addresses some of the critique facing aid organisations and assists to position the sector to access greater government funding. The Code covers accountabilities, program principles, relationships with partners, public engagement, organisational information, compliance, implementation guidance and complaints procedures and processes. Adherence to the Code by ACFID members is a requirement of membership.

Group Discussion

Participants were asked to consider and discuss the following in groups:

- (i) Key Asks
- (ii) Pacific CSO Statement to Forum Organising Committee
- (iii) Development of Pacific CSO Code of Conduct

Plenary

CSO Statement to FOC

(i) Participants requested e-copies of the Commonwealth CSO Outcome Statement for wider circulation and consultation with members and networks, with the aim of endorsing and enhancing the document to include language on peace and security and address issues such as logging, over fishing and people with disabilities, including strengthening elements around CEDAW and its ratification by remaining Pacific states. The document needs to include reference to development effectiveness around human rights and people.

(ii) It was also noted that participants preferred that the Sydney CSO Statement not be used as a template for the FOC meeting as this was a Commonwealth Foundation document.

Code of Conduct

(ii) On the formulation of a Code of Conduct, participants agreed to support PIANGO in its development of a Code of Conduct saying it would be easier for the Pacific to relate to the *Istanbul Principles* as opposed to developing a Code of Conduct. PIANGO clarified that the Code of Conduct was not for PIANGO saying that PIANGO would be willing to assist an NLU who might be interested in developing its own Code.

Road to Busan

(iii) In reference to the document entitled the *Road to Busan* – the meeting proposed e-copies of the document and made the following amendments:

- Agreeable with (i) and (ii).
- (iii) Country systems Need to account for situations where the country system is flawed.
- List of Vulnerable People does not include people with disability.
- Unpredictability of aid flows – propose 5-10 year tranches.
- Strengthen accountability and good governance....need to account for conflict countries.
- Support implementation of a rights based approach to development.
- (c)and (d) support all of it.
- There was unanimous support to endorse the *Road to Busan* document.

Auckland 'moment'

- Suggest convening a PIANGO meeting. Also suggestion to write a formal letter to all Forum Leaders congratulating PIANGO for its role in the region and requesting that leaders note this at the Leaders meeting.
- Create PIANGO Facebook Page before the meeting for CSO messages to Forum Leaders.
- Good media coverage is needed of CSO presence in Auckland.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSING

Participants shared their views of the meeting and thanked PIANGO and the Reality of Aid for enabling their participation.

Ms Duituturaga acknowledged with gratitude, the collaboration with Ms Danlog and the Reality of Aid and noted with appreciation, the work of the PIANGO Secretariat in organising the meeting. The representative of Vanuatu then presented Ms Danlog with a gift on behalf of the meeting.

The PIANGO Chair, Mr Drew Havea, then closed the meeting with a prayer.

**PACIFIC ISLANDS REALITY OF AID REGIONAL WORKSHOP
ON AID AND DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS
8-9 JULY 2011
TOKATOKA HOTEL, NADI, FIJI**

FINAL AGENDA

Day 1: Friday 8 July, 2011

- 8.30am Welcome
- Reflections
- 9.00am The Reality of Aid – Ms. Ava Danlog, Country Outreach Officer
for Asia Pacific – IBON/Reality of Aid, Philippines
- An Overview of Reality of Aid & Introduction to Aid and Development
Effectiveness advocacy work and the role of CSOs in AAA implementation
and development effectiveness*
- 10.00am **Morning Tea**
- 10.30am CSO Development Effectiveness – Ms Emele Duituturaga,
Interim Executive Director, PIANGO and CSO Forum Global
Facilitation Group Co-Chair
- Global CSO preparations for the Busan 4th High Level Forum on
Aid Effectiveness*
- Reporting back from the Siem Reap, Cambodia Open Forum 2nd General
Assembly 28-30 July, 2011 – Mr Hassan Khan
- 12.00noon **Lunch**
- 13.30pm **(5-7mins each)** *Sharing of experiences in Aid Effectiveness Sharing of
experiences in AE advocacy work and the role of CSOs in AAA
implementation and development effectiveness*

Country Situations –

- Report back from Fiji national RoA workshop (5 July)
- Cook Islands
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- PNG
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Timor Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

What is the pattern of Aid Donors in New Zealand and Australia and others in the Pacific

- ACFID
- CID

15.00pm ***Afternoon Tea***

15.30pm Summary and Analysis of Country Situations and the Reality of
Aid within the national settings

17.00pm End of Day

Day 2: Saturday 9 July, 2011

8.30am *Thematic Issues – Gender Equality and Women’s rights*
- FEMlink Pacific
- Fiji Women’s Rights Movement

Disabilities
- Pacific Disability Forum

Trade and Globalisation

- PANG

Labour

- FTUC

Human Rights

- RRRT

Community Empowerment

- ECREA

10.30am **Morning Tea**

11.00am Summary and analysis of *Thematic Issues* in addressing these Issues and strategies to address these issues

12.30pm **Lunch**

14.00pm Concerns and current initiatives of CSOs in engaging in Aid Effectiveness

CSO Road to Busan (Discussion, feedback and sign on to the CSO key asks)

CSO plans/recommendations/issues and concerns to be presented to donors and government

17.00pm **Close of Workshop**

ANNEX 2

**PIANGO/REALITY OF AID
REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS
8 – 9 JULY, 2011, NADI, FIJI ISLANDS**

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

“GIVE DEVELOPMENT A HUMAN FACE”, PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS SAY

A Pacific regional meeting on aid and development effectiveness has reinforced an international call for people to be brought to the centre of development and that development co-operation and aid effectiveness processes are people centered, respect human rights and achieve social justice as cornerstones of aid and development effectiveness.

In recent years, the Pacific region has experienced structural adjustments, political instability and policy changes in its development assistance landscape. Threats to human rights, peace and security being experienced in some Pacific countries have impacted on the enabling environment for civil society and affected the way in which civil society works.

This was revealed at the Pacific Islands Consultation on Aid and Development Effectiveness which ended in Nadi at the weekend. The meeting was attended by civil society leaders from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Organised by the Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations (PIANGO) in partnership with the Reality of Aid Asia Pacific, based in the Philippines, the meeting acknowledged the critical importance of donor support for CSOs. It congratulated the Australia Government on accepting the recommendations of an independent aid review to increase development assistance to the Pacific and its emphasis on support to Non Government organisations. Participants also congratulated the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) on its positive decision to reinstate the post of Non State Actor Officer saying they looked forward to working closely with PIFS in supporting Pacific governments to engage more effectively with civil society.

Civil society leaders called on Pacific Island governments to revisit their commitments to Pacific people and CSOs at regional and international levels within the context of the *Pacific Plan* and *Cairns Compact*.

“As umbrella CSO bodies, we have an important role to play and collaborate with other development actors to influence regional and global agendas and give voice to the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised that we work with. We need to bring together youth, women, men and community voices to advocate on very real and pressing issues affecting our region such as climate change, food security, human rights, gender, disabilities and trade,” said Ms Emele Duituturaga, PIANGO’s interim Executive Director.

“Commitments made on donor harmonisation in international agreements such as the *Paris Declaration* need to be extended to dialogue, resourcing and collaboration with CSOs. Civil Society needs to have partnership agreements with governments and development partners to ensure that development takes on a human face,” she said.

Ms Ava Danlog of Reality of Aid, said that in some instances aid effectiveness processes have been very disempowering for citizens.

“There is a need for CSOs to focus on concrete, tangible outputs as there is usually a tendency to focus on donor ‘hot topics’. Aid should be about partnerships. Development partners must foster basic principles of partnership and acknowledge the contribution of recipients. In addition, trade and other economic activities need to also focus on human development,” Ms Danlog said.

An emerging issue in the Pacific region and one that is also a part of the larger development agenda issue concerns the rights of people living with disability in the region who continue to be marginalised and excluded from development processes.

Mr Katabwena Tawaka, of the Pacific Disability Forum told the meeting that present statistics (June, 2011) illustrate that over 800,000 people are living with disabilities in the Pacific.

“There is a need for governments and development partners to recognise disability as a development issue. Disability may increase the risk of poverty. In the Pacific, people with disabilities rely on their families for support, assistance and medical care and this must be acknowledged by stakeholders. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also do not make specific reference to people with disabilities,” he said.

The Pacific meeting was organised by PIANGO and was part of Reality of Aid Asia Pacific regional consultations in the lead-up to the HLF4 in Busan, South Korea, in November, 2011. HLF4 will assess whether or not key government commitments on aid effectiveness have been achieved since the last high-level meeting in Accra in 2008. The Busan meeting is a key opportunity for governments to go beyond promises and commit to more effective, sustainable development assistance in terms of its real impact on the lives of all people. (ENDS)

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