



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' STATEMENT TO PACIFIC ISLAND FORUM LEADERS'

Nauru

4th September 2018

“Partnerships for Building a Strong Pacific – harnessing the contribution and will of civil Society”

1. Civil society organizations (CSOs) acknowledge the on-going inclusion of CSOs in this dialogue in which CSOs are committed to adding value to Forum Leaders' discussions and outcomes, particularly to dialogue as equal partners 'for effective relationships and inclusive and enduring partnerships' for building a strong Pacific.¹

2. CSOs contributions draw from the Framework for Pacific Regionalism's values of “inclusivity, equity and equality”.² These values compliment the *Blue Pacific* narrative which Pacific Islands Forum Leaders have committed to execute the regions priorities to ensure a secure and prosperous region for all Pacific Islanders. They importantly place people at the center of building a strong Pacific through our collective will to withstand growing political, economic and environmental challenges and threats. ³ **To this end we acknowledge the space provided to Civil Society to dialogue with Leaders directly and we invite Leaders to consider extending this dialogue opportunity to all CROP agencies.**

3. CSOs recognize the importance of aligning regional measures to targeted sectors, where CSOs can add value. In this regard, and on the recommendation of the Pacific Sports Ministers, and Forum Economic Ministers' and noting the SSCRs recommendation on a renewed impetus to and elevation of a coordinated approach to growing NCDs in the Pacific especially among children., **we call on Forum Leaders to:**

- (a) Endorse the development of a Pacific Sport, Physical Activity and Physical Education (PSPAPE) Action Plan 2018 – 2030 to maximize the contribution of sport, physical activity and physical education to sustainable development in Pacific Island Forum Countries; and a regional coordination mechanism to: i) provide technical assistance to Pacific Island Countries and Territories and ii) develop integrated systems for data collection, analysis, policy development and implementation.
- (b) Task the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to coordinate a Pacific Regional Sports Taskforce and Pacific Regional Sports Reference Group to develop and implement the Pacific Sport, Physical Activity and Physical Education (PSPAPE) Action Plan 2018 - 2030.

4. CSOs also recognize and support the recommendation of the SSCR on the issue of **Non Communicable Disease⁴ (NCDs) in particular the increasing infant and child obesity** in the Pacific. Furthermore, CSOs

¹The CSO-PIFS Engagement Strategy 2016

² ibid

³ Report on the State of Pacific Regionalism 2017

⁴ Specialist Sub Committee on Regionalism Report, 2018

These papers were produced by civil society representatives that attended the Regional Civil Society Organisations Forum organised by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat with support from the European Union. The contents present the views of the civil society representatives and can in no way be reflected as views of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat or the European Union.



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recognize a ‘whole of government’⁵ approach required for a renewed motivation to address NCDs and we call on Forum Leaders’ to:

- a) Urgently consider innovative strategies and mechanisms that can inject impetus and elevate a coordinated response on this issue, including a strong *action statement* to galvanize allocation of requisite resources at the national, and where relevant, regional level, and taking ownership of a coordinated, whole-of-government response. In doing so, task relevant intergovernmental organizations, civil society and private sector to collaborate with all stakeholders through a multisectoral taskforce to accelerate its implementation. Civil society and their communities stand at the forefront of this issue, and the will to reach our most vulnerable Pacific communities.

6. CSOs acknowledge the ‘expanded concept of security’ to include Human Security as distinctive from Traditional Security. We recognize that food, nutrition and health in particular NCDs and obesity are increasing urgencies that threaten human security of Pacific peoples. This distinction should be further developed and, that these issues should be reflected in the Biketawa Plus Security Declaration. Additionally, CSOs wish to highlight that the increasing ‘impacts of climate’ [1] change on food security will exacerbate NCDs and obesity. Therefore, CSOs call on Leaders to:

- a) Acknowledge that the ‘expanded concept of security’ to consider Human Security as distinctive from Traditional Security;
- b) Task the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to chair a working group to work on articulating the specific policy issues that marks this distinction between “traditional security” and ‘Human security’.

7. Furthermore CSOs contribution towards building a stronger Pacific by way of empowering their own communities are excellent initiatives that require direct government and global/ regional climate finance support, noting the ‘insignificant evidence of tangible impact to show for the climate finance accessed at the community level. The steady progress of the development of the Pacific Resilience Facility which seeks to invest in ex-ante preparedness to better manage imminent risks for the impacts of climate change and disasters in the region, is a welcome alternative for CSOs, and noting the endorsement of the PRF at the Forum Economic Ministers, CSOs urge Forum Leaders to:

- a) Consider development of a regional M&E framework to track climate finance and the linkages to national development plans/ strategies.
- b) Endorse the Pacific Resilience Facility as a regional fund developed and managed by the Pacific, for the resilience of people and communities in the Pacific.

⁵ ANNEX 2 – CSO Briefing Note on Sport, Physical Activity and Physical Education

⁶ International Federation of Red Crescent in the Pacific

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