

Bonjour and bula from the Pacific Community. I'd like to thank the Human Rights Council for the chance to make this short intervention on behalf of the Pacific Community.

I'd really like start by congratulating Fiji's Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan for ascending to the presidency of the Human Rights Council. This really gives a voice to the Pacific in this important international forum.

The Pacific Community believes there is the need for a more contextualised and community – driven approach to development. COVID-19 has exposed some gaps in the international community's approach to working together on these issues and we believe the Pacific has some answers that can help fill these gaps.

At SPC we take a People Centred Approach to development. Our region has a strong history of the talanoa. Talanoa is a way of meeting together to hear opposing views in a welcoming and sensitive situation that allows community voices to be heard. SPC has embraced this tradition and is using it as the basis for our People-Centred Approach.

The People-Centred Approach moves beyond a human resource focus and embeds people centred decision making throughout our organisation. We really encourage UN member states, secretariats and agencies to benefit from this approach and follow what SPC is doing.

It's worth highlighting that in March 2020, in Samoa, the 84th meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child took place. This was the first time the meeting had taken place outside of the head offices in New York and Geneva and was a true example of a people-centred approach.

SPC's review of the regional meeting of the Committee of the Rights of the Child in the Pacific showcased that this was an opportunity to reach directly to the rights holders themselves, engaging in this way with the local Pacific community and the holders of those human rights, which led to a strengthening of outcomes from this meeting. The Committee was able to talk directly to the people impacted and those that were impacted were more engaged with the outcomes of that meeting.

We really encourage the UN to think about doing this on a regular basis with its treaty based programmes and to actually use this as an opportunity to take a people centred approach to the engagement of all treaty body committees.

The COVID crisis will pass, but the opportunity is to make use of this people centred approach in an ongoing sense to ensure that the work of the council and other treaty-based bodies continue to engage with the people they impact.

We really encourage that for you in the Pacific and elsewhere. Bula Vinaka from the Pacific Community.