



PIANGO

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

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Pacific Regional CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness Follow-Up and Planning Meeting Towards the Busan Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4)

**Suva, Fiji Islands
25-26 March, 2011**

OUTCOMES STATEMENT

Preamble

The “Pacific Regional CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness Follow-Up and Planning Meeting” for the Busan “Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4)” was held in Suva, Republic of the Fiji Islands, from 25-26 March, 2011. It was attended by Australia (ACFID), Fiji (FCOSS), New Zealand (CID), Solomon Islands (DSE), Tonga (CSFT) and PNG (MNCL).¹ The meeting was convened by the Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations (PIANGO) and funded through the Global Open Forum Consortium through InterAction - the United States umbrella NGO. Participants appreciated the attendance of the Development Cooperation Adviser of PIFS for part of the meeting.

PIANGO, as the regional NGO coordinating body, has the role of coordinating the Pacific CSO input to the Global CSO Open Forum process on CSO Development Effectiveness. PIANGO is also the Co-chair for the Global Facilitation Group (GFG) leading the global CSO preparations towards HLF 4.

The Pacific meeting was part of worldwide consultations via the Open Forum process on Development Effectiveness in the lead-up to the HLF4 in Busan, South Korea, in November, 2011. In the preparations for HLF4, CSOs are assessing whether or not government and donor commitments on CSO recognition made at the HLF3 in Accra, in 2008, have been achieved and lobbying for commitment to more effective, sustainable development assistance and NGO accountability in terms of its real impact on the lives of all people.

Outcomes

The Second Pacific CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness:

1. Affirmed the leading role of civil society in the Pacific, and CSOs as a primary means by which citizens and communities:
 - a) organise themselves to provide support to each other;

¹ ACFID-Australian Council for International Development; FCOSS-Fiji Council of Social Services; CID-Council for International Development; DSE-Development Service Exchange; CSFT-Civil Society Forum of Tonga; MNCL-Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership

- b) provide essential services to the wider population, such as health, education, youth support, and women's rights; and
 - c) work towards building systems of greater accountability at all levels of society.
2. Recognised the critical role that umbrella NGOs play at the national and regional levels in convening, coordinating and developing policy dialogue with communities, donors and governments.
 3. Endorsed the *Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness* which stress human rights, gender equality, democratic participation, environmental sustainability, CSO transparency and accountability, equitable CSO partnerships, and mutual learning. The meeting noted the value of the *Draft International CSO Development Effectiveness Framework* which covers guidelines and indicators, enabling environments for effective CSO contribution to development, particularly standards for governments and donors. Pacific Island countries also contributed to the formulation of the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework.
 4. Welcomed the commitment by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to collaborate with CSOs to strengthen development cooperation in the Pacific under the *Cairns Compact*. The meeting called for the implementation of actions to realise this end, specifically: *“Greater involvement of the non government sector in planning and implementation of development activities to ensure more broad based efforts to support development coordination. The following areas of improvement included:*
 - (a) Increased transparency in partnership arrangements with government;*
 - (b) Improved coordination within the non government sector and with government;*
 - (c) Umbrella national non government and private sector organisations to lead in policy engagement, monitoring and reporting of aid flows and tracking the effectiveness of aid;*
 - (d) Strengthen regional engagement strategies with regional umbrella non government entities;*
 - (e) Coherent funding mechanisms at national and regional levels.**(Ref: Paragraph 14 (a)-(e). “Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific – Regional Workshop.” February 2011, Nadi, Fiji.)*
 5. Called on PIFS to expand its annual High-Level Dialogue between private sector representatives and Forum leaders to include other Non-State Actors (NSAs) such as CSO umbrella bodies, including PIANGO.
 6. Agreed to prioritise the development of a CSO Pacific Regional Code of Conduct to promote transparency and accountability in CSO organisations, and to develop and mentor the next generation of CSO leaders.
 7. Expressed concern about donor funding cuts to umbrella NGOs and CSOs across the region which have led to a loss of capacity building and governance training, both key priorities for Pacific CSOs.

8. Called upon donors to move from ad hoc project approaches, to long-term strategic partnerships, based on an analysis and planning to support civil society development in each country context, with strong, consistent resourcing and collaboration. Additionally, *Paris Declaration* commitments on donor harmonisation need to be extended to dialogue, resourcing and collaboration with CSOs.
9. Agreed on a Pacific regional approach for the “Second Global Assembly of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness” (Siem Riep, Cambodia, 28-30 June 2011) in the lead-up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in Busan, South Korea.
10. Further agreed to strengthen CSO participation at the “Pacific Aid Effectiveness and PIC Partners Meeting” (Nadi, Fiji, 11-15 July, 2011) and the “Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting” (Auckland, New Zealand, 6-9 September, 2011).
11. In conclusion, the meeting called on governments and donors to partner more strategically with CSOs to improve development effectiveness to realise the *Pacific Plan* and achieve the *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*..

Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO)
Suva, Fiji Islands
26 March, 2011