



CONCEPT PAPER

Talanoa on "Integration of Human Rights in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

30th August 2018, 3pm to 5pm.
Suva Business Centre, Victoria Parade, Suva. Fiji

In Partnership with Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),

Summary

This concept note outlines the background, rationale and objectives for a **Talanoa on "Integration of Human Rights in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"** proposed to take place in Fiji at the Suva Business Centre, Victoria Parade on 30th August 2018.

The Talanoa is intended be a platform to share knowledge, raise Human Rights challenges and issues affecting the Pacific and engage in discussion on the importance of integration of Human Rights in the achievement of the SDGs. This will act as the initial way forward for a new partnership between PIDF and the Pacific Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

At the conclusion of the Talanoa, a Memorandum of Understanding between PIDF and UNOHCHR will also be signed which will pave the way to a future collaboration and on the integration of human rights in the achievement of the SDGs for the Pacific thus rallying the call underpinning the new agenda which is *"to leave no one behind"*.

Rationale

More than 90% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets are linked to international human rights and labour standards. The achievement of the SDGs is only possible if we protect people's rights in the process. In fact, by putting in strong mechanisms of protection of human rights, we'd have a much higher probability of achieving many of the SDGs.

PIDF recognizes that subsequently, the human rights framework offers important guidance for the implementation of the SDGs. Similarly, the SDGs can contribute in substance to the realisation of human rights in the Pacific.

As an initial phase towards this, the Pacific Islands Development Forum and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Pacific will host a Talanoa with other relevant human rights stakeholders, to discuss the linkages between Human Rights and the SDGs, specifically from a Pacific perspective.

This Talanoa will also present the proposed collaboration between PIDF and UNOHCHR as an initial step towards a coherent vision and strategy in embracing human rights issues in the Pacific in terms of advocacy, securing the rights of people with specific disabilities, rights of people affected by environmental disasters, and human rights outreach and education.

Objectives

1. To introduce a new partnership between the Pacific Islands Development Forum and the UN Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights for the Pacific.
2. To bring together advocates and practitioners to present, share understanding and discuss key Human Rights challenges and issues in the Pacific directly related to the activities of the partnership.
3. To officially sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations for joint advocacy on Human Rights in the Pacific and to fulfill our commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind.

Program outline

The program will involve a Welcome Address by Mr. François Martel, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) followed by the opening of the Talanoa by Dr. Chitralekha Massey, Regional Representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

There will be four 10 minutes sessions with speakers on the following topics:

- How Human Rights can support Pacific Island Countries achieve their targets as set in the Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate induced displacement and migration with a rights based focus
- Pacific disability through advocacy work for rights and services for persons living with disabilities and their support group with special focus on those living with mental illness and albinism
- Human Rights education, inclusive of environmental rights, for the people of Pacific island countries, acknowledging that these need to emerge from a Pacific context.

For Further Information/Contact:

Ms. Afsrin Ali

Coordinator Program Management

Pacific Islands Development Forum | 56 Domain Road, Nasese,

P.O.Box 2050, Govt. Bldg, Suva, REPUBLIC OF FIJI.

Ph: (679) 331 1518 | Mobile: (679) 9028102