

## Pacific Islands Civil Society Consultation on Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration 2-3 November 2017

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### OUTCOME STATEMENT

Mata ki mua Mata ki tua Monu Tagaloa...Tee-oooh-hoo-hoo...  
*Niue Blessing*

This Pacific Outcome Statement is a response by civil society stakeholders strongly endorsing dignity for safe, orderly and regular migration into and from our region. The regional consultation was co-convened in Fiji on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, by leading civil society organizations and thought leaders from the Pacific. The consultation mobilised representatives from NGOs, trade unions, education and researchers, businesses, youth group, faith-based groups and others to consider the key issues, priorities, human rights, indigenous concerns and governance issues pertinent to the preparatory process of the UN Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

#### 1.0 Pacific Introduction

**1.1** The sounding of the Conch Shell<sup>1</sup> from Pacific island countries on the issues of migration, self-determination, development, and rising sea levels due to climate change is a call to the global community to be on high alert, listen and pay attention to our voice.

**1.2** Appreciating the co-conveners of the Pacific Consultation for ensuring the Pacific contribution to the GCM: the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO), the Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF), Diplomacy Training Program (DTP), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), and the Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre (SAPMiC).

**1.3** Recalling all international instruments and declarations,<sup>2</sup> and events<sup>3</sup> relevant to migration and the Pacific that have occurred recently that give support to the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

#### 2.0 Pacific Guiding Values

**2.1** Aligning with our Pacific values of reciprocity, resilience, consultation, dialogue, we support that stronger partnerships should be fostered between Pacific countries, governments, regional organizations, NGOs, CSOs, trade unions, youths, private sectors, educational and researchers, migrant organizations, and faith based organizations to strengthen cooperative collaborations that facilitate and ensures inclusive safe, orderly and regular Pacific migrations;

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<sup>1</sup> Conch Shell- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lw6-OfHZ89U>

<sup>2</sup> The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, (19 September 2016) adopted by the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on large movements of refugees and migrants in September 2016 (A/RES/71/1); and the Colombo Statement (23 Feb 2017).; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; the Declaration of the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development; ILO Multi-Lateral Framework on Labour Migration (2006).

<sup>3</sup> The Bali Process, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)-European Union (EU) Dialogue on Migration, the European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Structured and Comprehensive Bi-regional Dialogue on Migration

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and that the Pacific voice should be heard in all pertinent dialogues and processes governing climate change induced migration at the national, regional and global levels corresponding with binding instruments<sup>4</sup>.

**2.2** We believe in our Pacific principles, philosophical tenets, protocols, processes and paradigms that are the foundational pillars that construct the respective worldviews of the sovereign nations and associated territories of the Pacific region. We remember, value and uphold the narratives of our ancestors, strengths of our wisdom holders and migration warriors that have passed on. We believe that our relational worldview emphasizes the spirit and spirituality of our peoples. We support that knowledge is holistic, cyclic, and dependent upon relationships and connections to living and non-living beings and entities; and that the land and Ocean is sacred. Migrations in and out of the region affects the equilibrium of these relationships.

### **3.0 Pacific Action Priorities**

#### **3.1 Historic legacies**

Historical legacies of colonization shaped our first waves of forced migration including black birding, nuclear testing<sup>5</sup>, militarization, and illegal occupations of Indigenous lands<sup>6</sup>. The Global Compact on Migration must acknowledge that the first step in resolution of our historic legacies requires the global community to recognize root causes, which further perpetuate global ideologies of neo-liberalism and capitalism resulting in genocide of our most vulnerable. Through the recognition and resolution of historical legacies, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have the potential to offer solutions toward safe, regular, and orderly migration while maintaining sovereignty and Indigenous rights.

#### **3.2 Human Rights of migrants**

Human Rights are sacrosanct; and likewise, firm protections for the safety, dignity and fundamental freedoms of all Pacific migrants at all times, entering and exiting the region. Several key issues include: seasonal workers; contractual violations; no social security; exploitative placements; gender inequalities; low pay; and privatization of public services and commodification. We strongly emphasize protections against smuggling and trafficking of persons, including vulnerable unaccompanied minors and women, forced labour and contemporary forms of slavery. We rail against all forms of discrimination and intolerance; and support social cohesion and inclusion of marginal communities such as persons with disabilities and the LGBTQTI. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and UN Human Rights Committee member Australia must address the disregard for human dignity of migrants/ asylum seekers/refugees on Manus and Nauru. In addition, CSOs and development partners must continue to advocate for the most vulnerable of our Pacific region such as West Papua and Kanaky.

#### **3.3 Climate change induced migration**

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 1948), Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM/SORM) focused on giving effect to human dignity, human security and human rights consistent with the Declaration on Indigenous Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 2015 and the Samoa Pathway for SIDS

<sup>5</sup>

<sup>6</sup> In *West Papua; and the Enjebi community of Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands, who experienced devastating loss as a result of nuclear testing reverberating through generations as internal displacement, famine, ill health, and disrupted social structures*

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Climate change induced migration is a critical concern for Pacific Island countries. It poses existential threats such as - loss of land due to coastal erosion and flooding, self-determination, loss of access to water and compromised food sovereignty, and the uprooting and displacement of Pacific people who are spiritually and culturally connected to their land and sea. This is reflected in the burial of umbilical cords in the land and the birthrights of Pacific people that signify the deep relationship they have with the land and ocean. Pacific Island governments need to prioritize climate change induced migration and to push for its recognition and inclusion in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

### **3.4 Circular and Temporary Migration schemes and remittances**

Circular and temporary migrations have occurred throughout Pacific histories of people movement; and we recognize the value of temporary Migration to our developments and improvements of livelihoods through remittances and its negative impacts on our people and communities. We recognize and strongly encourage sustained dialogue concerning contributions of migrants and diaspora in all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned and social benefits. Our Pacific governments, other PIFS members and observers must recognize the impact of historical legacies on circular and temporary migration without considering remittances as development options.

### **3.5 Migration and development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Pacific SIDS are vulnerable to drivers of migration, including adverse effects of natural hazards and human-made crises, if they are not included in dialogues towards collective resolution. Our Pacific governments must rethink and mobilize resources, appropriate mechanisms and technologies for best protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication and conflict prevention underpinned by Pacific values. The Rights and Dignity of our Pacific People and those integrated into our island communities shall be paramount in all aspects of migration schemes.

We are committed to the initiation and continuation of this process in constructive dialogue and collaboration with our Traditional Leaders and governments to ensure that our Pacific Voices are heard and included at all levels. We acknowledge the contributions of the Pacific regional consultations.

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### ANNEX

#### Participants of the Pacific Islands Civil Society Consultation on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

S.No.	Name	Organisation
1	Amele Ravutu Muatabu	Fiji Nursing Association
2	Brooke Takala Abraham	Elimoñdik
3	Eberhard Heinrich Weber	University of the South Pacific
4	Emele Duituturaga	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
5	James Bhagwan	Methodist Church in Fiji
6	John Corcoran	Pacifica Migration Services
7	Jone Dakuvula	Pacific Dialogue
8	Jone Temo	Dialogue Fiji
9	Laitia Tamata	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
10	Lucrisha Nair	Citizens Constitutional Forum
11	Maureen Penjueli	Pacific Network on Globalisation
12	Michael Young	National Union of Hospitality Catering & Tourism Industries Employees
13	Muriel Theresa Lui	Caritas Samoa
14	Nanang Ibrahim	International Young Christian Workers (Asia Pacific team)
15	Patrick Niebo	Ombudsman Commission of PNG
16	Patrick Teitiaua	Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
17	Pefi Kingi	PacificWIN
18	Penina Waqatabu	School of Social Science, University of the South Pacific
19	Peter O'Neill	Missionary Society of St.Columban
20	Rangi Tiari	Cook Island Workers Association
21	Raymond Ton	Caritas Papua New Guinea
22	Sara Bulutani Mataitawakilai	Citizens Constitutional Forum
23	Sister Senolita	Caritas Tonga
24	Tammy Tabe	University of the South Pacific
25	Teresa Thorp	Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand
26	Varanisese Nasilasila	Citizens Constitutional Forum
27	Viniana Cakau	Citizens Constitutional Forum
28	Georgina Young	Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy
29	Rusila Rauce	University of the South Pacific
30	Viliame Kasanawaqa	Pacific Island Development Forum