



# PIANGO

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

P. O. Box 17780, Suva, Fiji. 256 Waimanu Road, Suva. Phone: +679 330-2963  
Web: <http://www.piango.org>

*For Immediate Release*

## **PACIFIC TO HAVE STRONG PRESENCE AT TOP U.N. SUMMIT**

Suva, Fiji Islands (25 August, 2010) - The Pacific Islands will have a strong presence at the upcoming 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI)/Non Government Organisation (NGO) Conference which kicks off in Melbourne, Australia, next week.

The global gathering of NGOs from all over the world is being convened under the official banner “Advance Global Health: Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).”

Pacific Island NGO representatives from Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, including regional NGO and disability organisations will join their global counterparts to discuss progress on issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender based violence, youth, malaria, nutrition, reproductive health, infant and maternal mortality, child protection, water and sanitation, poverty, environment sustainability and disability, including the absence of disability issues in the MDGs.

A Pacific booth will also form part of numerous NGO exhibitions and some 54 workshops focused around implementation of the MDGs taking place over the three-day summit. Two of the workshops will be run by Pacific NGO presenters featuring their work in achieving MDGs.

The Pacific Island NGOs represented at the conference include the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), Save the Children (Vanuatu and Fiji), Tonga Women and Children’s Crisis Centre, Tuvalu Association of NGOs, Solomon Islands Development Trust, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI), Pacific Disability Forum, Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women and the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre. The UNDP Pacific Centre has provided support towards the attendance of a number of NGO representatives.

Also running alongside the margins of the event will be an Aid Communicators’ conference organised by CARE Australia on August 27<sup>th</sup> and a seminar on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria organised by Pacific Friends of the Global Fund, in conjunction with the Lowy Institute and KPMG. This is due to take place on August 29<sup>th</sup> and will include strong representation by the Pacific.

“This UNDPI conference will enable our Pacific voices to be heard. The Pacific will be part of a global community who are all focused on the same agenda and implementing it in ways which best suit the needs of their countries and peoples. The Pacific delegation is pleased and very proud to be a part of this like-minded global community,” said Ms Emele Duituturaga, Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) based in Suva, Fiji.

“Environment sustainability, gender equality, HIV/AIDS, malaria, disability and other health related issues are high on the agenda for the Pacific as we accelerate our efforts to achieve the MDGs. Time, we must remember, is running out,” she said.

The conference will take place from August 30 to September 1, 2010 at Victoria’s the state-of-the-art Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. It will open with an indigenous welcome to Australia and will be followed by welcome remarks from senior representatives of the UN and the Australian government. This is the first time in three years that the conference is being held away from the United Nations headquarters in New York. (ENDS)

Media Contact PIANGO Pacific Delegation: Debbie Singh, PIANGO Communications Advisor.

Email: [deb.singh@yahoo.com](mailto:deb.singh@yahoo.com)

## **Pacific Delegation Presentations**

**Tuesday, 31 August, 11:45 A.M.**

### **46. Achieving MDGs in Grassroots Pacific Communities: the Case of the Pacific Islands**

**SPONSOR: National Children and Youth Law Centre, Australia**

**CO-SPONSORS: Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Save the Children, Australia, Tuvalu Association of Non-Governmental Associations**

#### **SUMMARY:**

Pacific Islands NGOs work without much recognition and visibility. This workshop highlights practical examples from the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu on achieving the MDGs in the fields of gender equality, child health, maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and environmental sustainability.

**Moderator:** Emele Duituturaga, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs, Fiji

**Speakers:** Irene Malachai, HIV advocate, IZA (Irene & Zara Foundation) Project, Save the Children, Vanuatu, Ofa Guttenbeil, Tonga Women and Children's Crisis Centre, Tonga, Annie Homasi, Director, Tuvalu Association of NGOs. Tuvalu, Jennifer Wate, Director, Solomon Islands Development Trust, Solomon Islands.

**Tuesday, 31 August, 3:30 P.M.**

### **47. Forum on Global Health and the MDGs – Efforts of the Pacific Island NGOs**

**SPONSOR: Counterpart International, USA**

**CO-SPONSORS: Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI), Fiji Save the Children, Fiji Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW), Fiji Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), Fiji**

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Pacific Regional NGO (PRNGO) and Alliance panel of Pacific CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) will present an overview of the health status of the inhabitants of the Pacific Islands. In their view achieving the MDGs requires non-state actors to address the key determinants of health of different population groups. This panel will identify the key determinants of health, the challenges for population groups such as women, children, youth, and people with disabilities, and the community development strategies used by PRNGOs to contribute to achieving the MDGs.

**Moderator:** Margaret Leniston, Regional Health Programme Manager, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI), Fiji

**Speakers:** Margaret Eastgate, Programme Manager, Pacific Disability Forum  
Chandra Shekhar, Save the Children Fiji, Tokasa Vitayaki, Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women, Fiji, Edwina Kotoisuva, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre