

## PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION MECHANISM (PACCOM) STATEMENT 2017

Human rights and social justice activists and advocates from civil society, community groups and social movements from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu came together for the first Pacific Civil Society Organising Mechanism (PACCOM) Dialogue that was held from the 6-8th of February in Suva, Fiji.

Participants working in diverse areas of disability rights, health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, education, climate change, disaster risk and response, and environmental sustainability, gender equality and women's human rights, ending sexual and gender based violence, including violence against women and girls, access to justice, trade, economic and financial justice, sexual orientation and gender identities and expressions, indigenous rights, self-determination and decolonization, sustainable livelihoods, labour rights, freedom of religion, refugees and migrants, youth, good governance, peace and security and other intersectionalities and interlinkages discussed the realities of social organizing within Pacific Small Island States.

We hold the principles of justice, equality and equity, accountability, transparency and leadership as the foundation for an effective mechanism that will truly meet the needs of diverse civil society, community groups and social movements - including high need, at risk, and marginalised people.

We believe that our negotiation with all development partners including governments, the United Nations and funders needs to be transformed into one of respect, trust and mutual accountability, that ultimately represents the interests of all Pacific people.

We agreed to continue building a sustainable mechanism grounded in Pacific Small Island State contexts and needs; based on human rights principles, evidence based approaches, participative and bottom-up engagement, and demonstrating direct voice and accountable representation of diverse civil society, community groups and social movements across national, regional and international spaces.

In this vast and complex Pacific region, communication and information-sharing between grassroots, national and regional civil society and social movements is vital, and this requires ongoing spaces for constructive and honest dialogue, safe spaces and an opportunity for all participants to share challenges and strengths.

This mechanism requires an informed, open and inclusive membership that would add value to existing civil society engagement mechanisms, through shared work, solidarity and building strong positions in these tough and increasingly limited geo-political spaces.

This new mechanism moves forward with a renewed and strong shared vision, demonstrated commitment and with identified concrete future work. We call for recognition, meaningful engagement, and support of PACCOM. We urge Pacific small island civil society, community groups and social movements to join us in this exciting new initiative.

**Endorsements:** Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, National Capital District Women's Council of PNG, Pacific Dialogue Limited, Pacific Youth Council, Pacific Sexual Diversity Network, Samoa Faafafine Association Inc, Samoa National Youth Council Inc, Soqosoqo Vakamarama i-Taukei, Tonga Leiti Association, Tonga Community Development Trust, United Blind Persons of Fiji, Women United Together Marshall Islands, Marshall Islands Youth to Youth in Health, Honiara Youth Council, Young Women's Christian Association (SI), Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition, Vatu Mauri Consortium, Vanuatu National Youth Council.