



CONCEPT NOTE

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022 Celebration – Pacific

Friday, 2nd December

Holiday Inn, Suva Fiji

Theme: “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world.”

Background

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is annually observed on 3 December to promote the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities and to take action for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

This year’s regional celebration will take place on Friday, 2 December 2022 in a blended in person and virtual format with the theme: **“Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world.”**

The event organized by the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) in partnership with its Regional Partners and will focus on transformative solution for inclusive development and the role of innovation in fueling and accessible and equitable world.

The celebration will bring together partners and stakeholders, UN agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities, civil society, the private sector, the public as well as connecting our membership across the Pacific through a virtual platform.

PDF will implement with its members a series of activities in the lead up to the week and during the week as part of the celebration. The following activities will be implemented during the week with a 2-hour session focusing on an aspect of the theme:

- Hybrid Session focusing on Persons with Psychosocial disabilities
- Hybrid session focusing on Persons with Intellectual disabilities
- Hybrid session focusing on pre-condition to inclusion
- Hybrid session focusing on Humanitarian actions
- Main celebration to feature a stakeholder dialogue with partners.

During the week, as part of the celebration, PDF is organizing the following sessions and represented in the following regional dialogue and donor partner activities to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Monday 28th November – Thursday 2nd December 2022

The following hybrid session will take place with a focus on the following groups and areas to unpack the theme and to really understand what it means to progress the disability inclusion in the Pacific.

1. *Persons with psychosocial disabilities.*
The role of innovation to fuel an accessible equitable Pacific for persons with psychosocial disabilities. Understanding what it means and practical example
2. *Persons with intellectual disabilities*
Transformative solution for inclusive development. What does it mean for the inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities.
3. *Pre-condition to inclusion:*
Innovation without the precondition to inclusion of persons with disabilities will not transform our society to be equitable.
4. *Humanitarian actions and services.*
How can humanitarian actions and services be more accessible and equitable for persons with disabilities? What does transformative solution mean in humanitarian services

Representation during the week: ensuring that our voices as persons with disabilities. OPD in attendance

1. Transformative Agenda - Regional Planning Meeting Phase I and Phase II Consultation, UNFPA Regional Workshop – Nadi Fiji
2. Ministerial Roundtable with the theme: Gender and Disability Inclusion, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia. Canberra
3. Pacific-Australian Young Leaders Summit, Canberra, Australia

Friday, December 2nd – Regional Dialogue

A half-day regional dialogue and discussion on Friday, 2nd December at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Suva. The event will be in two segments:

Segment I: The role of regional and development partner (10 minutes per speaker)

- Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
- United Nations (UNRCO/OG6)
- International Telecommunication Union
- University of the South Pacific (PACRef/PRIEF – Regional Education Framework)
- UNESCAP, Pacific Office
- SPC HRSD

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat – Overview of the 2050 Strategy

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent is a long-term vision and strategy of Pacific Island Leaders and has the dreams for a better Pacific. How can the strategy ensure that the development until 2050 is truly accessible and equitable for persons with disabilities. No one left behind.

- a. UNRC: The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy provides the **foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion** through all pillars of the work of the United Nations. How does the theme reflect the work of the United Nations, and what are some of the transformative solutions delivered through the UN



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programs/services in the (Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Island, Vanuatu). How do we ensure that its accessible and equitable for persons with disabilities.

- b. ITU: The International Telecommunication Union is a key partner to ensure that digital transformation and innovation is accessible, affordable, available, and reliable. The role of the ITU for an accessible and equitable digital service in the Pacific, inclusive of persons with disabilities.
- c. USP: Persons with disabilities are amongst the poorest in our society and are **most at risk of being left behind**, with **poor health** and **education outcome** amongst others. What innovative solution can the education system such as the USP provide for persons with disabilities and how can we transform the same system to be accessible and equitable to respond to the adult learners and student with disabilities.
- d. UNESCAP: The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities adopted the ***Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032*** in October this year. How can the declaration be a truly transformative solution for inclusive development for persons with disabilities in the Pacific?
- e. SPC/HRSD: The important role that an inclusive regulatory framework provides for an **enabling environment to progress policy implementation**. The work of the division is too important in realising the rights of persons with disabilities in the Pacific. How can the division ensure transformative solution through your broader programs and disability specific intervention that is innovative and equitable?

Panelist will have 10 minutes each and will be followed by a Q&A session

Segment II: The role of donor partner.

- i. Asian Development Bank
- ii. European Union
- iii. World Bank
- iv. British High Commission
- v. JICA
- vi. KOICA

PDF recognises the role donor partners play in the development of our region. Donor partners investment in the region is critical to bring about an equitable society where persons with disabilities can enjoy their human rights.

The donor partners will respond to the question below and summary of the investment will be provided as a guide. PDF will use publicly available data from government budget document:

How can donor partner ensure that the investment through budget support, program budget, infrastructure investment etc., to pacific government is accessible and equitable for persons with disabilities. Is the investment disability inclusive?