



# PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM

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PRESS RELEASE

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## **From Recognition to Realisation of Rights: Furthering Effective Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific 2030**

**6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Conference on Disabilities – ‘Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all’**

### **PRESS RELEASE:**

The rights of people with disabilities to decent work is frequently denied according to the Director for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Office for Pacific Island Countries based in Suva, Mr Donglin Li in the keynote address on the first day of the Pacific Regional Conference of Disability.

“ILO is devoted to advancing opportunities for persons with disabilities, to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. To promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.” Mr. Lin said.

“Persons with disabilities experience higher rates of unemployment, economic inactivity and are at greater risk of insufficient social protection that is a key to reducing extreme poverty. People with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, face enormous attitudinal, physical and informational barriers to equal opportunities in the world of work.”

“ILO has been working with PDF for some years now and we are glad to see that the relationship continues to grow.”

Urgent efforts are needed to ensure that the human right to social protection becomes a reality for all, and to achieve the goals set by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Mr Li urged countries and international partners to support the global commitment to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors (SDG 1.3) by 2030 and to explore future collaborative actions with PDF and other partners in this area of work.

Pacific Disability Forum Chief Executive Officer, Mr Setareki Macanawai acknowledged the work done so far with ILO and looked forward to future collaboration with ILO in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Conference on Disability (PRCD) is currently held at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi from 25<sup>th</sup> February till the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 with the financial support of the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

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