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**Sixth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability**

**Theme: From Recognition to Realisation of Rights: Furthering Effective Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific 2030 for Persons with Disabilities.**

**Concept Note:**

## Background

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) is a regional non-governmental organisation established in December 2002, formally inaugurated in July 2004 and registered in Fiji in 2007 following a growing momentum in the Pacific region led by leaders of organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) to recognise the potential of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. PDF provides leadership, serves as the regional focal point on disability issues in the Pacific and supports the various national DPOs, donor and development partners as well as civil society in the quest to ensure that people with disabilities live in an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society in Pacific Island countries and territories. Its purpose is to promote and facilitate regional cooperation on disability related concerns for the benefit of persons with disabilities, their families and organisations in the Pacific, and principal stakeholders are national organisations of persons with disabilities and through them the people that they represent.

The PDF biannual regional conference is a platform for Disability development partners, practitioners, service providers and DPOs to dialogue and discuss issues pertaining to the protection, enjoyment and promotion of all human rights of all persons with disabilities, and advancement of a disability inclusive development agenda in the region. To date, PDF has convened five regional conferences in partnership with its member organisations in the host country and outcomes of such conferences have contributed to and assisted in shaping and progressing PDF’s work at the national, regional and international level.

The 1st Regional Conference was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu in April 2009 and the second in Auckland, New Zealand in April 2011 under the theme *‘Promoting Actions on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the Pacific’.* The third regional conference was held in April 2013 in Noumea, New Caledonia with the theme *‘Promoting Disability Perspective in the Post 2015 Development Agenda’* and the 4th regional conference held in Nadi, Fiji in February 2015 under the theme, *‘Partnership and Action Towards a Disability Inclusive Pacific’*. The fifth regional conference was held in Apia, Samoa in February 2017 with the theme focusing on ‘Building a More Inclusive and Equitable Pacific for Persons with Disabilities’ to recognise the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the role of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals in building a more inclusive and equitable Pacific for persons with disabilities.

In the last five years, Pacific Island countries’ leaders have strengthened their commitments to tackle barriers faced by persons with disabilities, with most countries now having ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The adoption of the 2016-2025 Pacific Regional Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD) represents another important step forward. PIC Governments have also prioritized empowering persons with disabilities as one of the issues that require collective attention in the 2017 Roadmap for Sustainable Development. Those commitments have begun to translate into greater efforts and progress in terms of awareness raising, legal harmonisation, data collection, inclusive education, vocational training, and access to assistive devices, social protection, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. Engagement with Organisations of People with Disabilities has significantly increased in many countries.

A key factor in this progress has been the unique and fruitful regional and multi-stakeholder collaboration between government, DPOs, regional bodies, UN agencies, and development and donor partners, including the sustained support of the Australian Government for disability inclusive development in the Pacific.

However, overall domestic resource allocation for the inclusion of persons with disabilities is still below 0.15%[[1]](#footnote-1) of the GDP for most countries. There remains a strong reliance on ODA to invest in developing required disability-specific and disability inclusive services. Countries often prioritise few issues and have not yet adopted a whole-of-government approach to inclusion. There is also a need for more effective regulatory changes across sectors and development of support services to enable significant improvement in the life of persons with disabilities and their families. While more can be done to make the most of existing resources, the intrinsic geographic, economic and institutional constraints faced by many countries are curtailing investments that would be needed to further decisive progress.

Considering the inherent constraints of many countries and competing priorities imposed by climate change, PDF recognise that deepening partnership towards an Inclusive Pacific 2030 notably through the formalisation of an efficient and innovative regional and multi-stakeholder mechanism in support of the PFRPD that would allow for mutualisation of investments, further coordination of technical assistance and gain in economy of scale in relation to procurement, development of human resources and access to services.

For these reasons, the Sixth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability to be held in Nadi, Fiji in February 2019 will focus on discussion for concrete actions with the PDF members, donor partners and stakeholders and building on from the PDF first SDG/CRPD monitoring report.

## Objectives of the Meetings and Expected Outcome

The expected outcome of the conference included but not limited to the following:

* Concrete actions for regional processes e.g. accessibility blueprint, regional procurement study, situational analysis for the deaf and regional model provision for disability legislation
* Concrete actions mapped out for thematic areas that will require follow up biennially
* Validation of processes from the PDF general forum to move strategies forward

**6th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability**

25 February 2019 (PDF General Forum)

26 – 27 February 2019 (Youth & Women’s Forum – Parallel Meeting)

27 February Research Symposium

28 February – 1 March 2019 (Main Conference)

**Main Conference Proposed Theme: From Recognition to Realisation of Rights: Furthering Effective Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific 2030 for Persons with Disabilities.**

Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

# Provisional Programme

**Monday, 25 February 2019**

**Morning & Afternoon**

* General Forum - PDF business for members only.

**Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27, February 2019 – Youth & Women’s Forum**

* There will be a one and half day parallel forum for women and youth with disabilities
* The Youth Forum will be led by the Programme Officer responsible for youth and supported by the PDF Youth Committee
* The Women’s Forum will be led by the Deputy CEO and supported by the PDF Women’s Committee
* The program will be developed and circulated for comments and input from the two committees

**Wednesday, 27 February 2019**

**Afternoon Session 2pm – 4.30pm**

**Research Symposium**

Sharing of PDF current and past research related projects:

* SDG/CRPD Regional Monitoring Report
* Regional Accessibility Standard
* EVAW toolkit
* Inclusive Budgeting
* Accessible ICT for Persons with Disabilities in the Pacific
* Climate Change – Loss and Damage
* Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific
* Regional Procurement of Assistive Devices
* Design of Situation Analysis of the Deaf in the Pacific

**Official Opening Ceremony 6pm – 7pm**

* Proposed for the official opening ceremony followed by a cocktail

**Thursday, 28February 2019**

**Morning**

* **Session 1 –** welcoming remarks, key note address, house-keeping, objectives and agenda for the 6th Conference. This session will provide areview and feedback of developments of the last conference (2017), setting the scene with the theme ‘From recognition to realisation of Rights: Furthering Effective Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific 2030’ – stock take of our work, our 15 years of existence

* **Session 2 –** This session will focus on the following, to see what has been done so far in terms of CRPD and SDG implementation
  + Legal harmonisation/Disability Rights Law
  + Budget
  + Data
  + Human Resource
  + Partnership/Mechanism

**Afternoon**

* **Session 3 –** This session will be a break out session for thematic areas, taking on the thematic areas presented in the SDG/CRPD Monitoring Report with partners who is working and supporting the work, furthering the partnership to realise the rights. The session will discuss actions in these thematic areas.

1. Disaster Risk Reduction (SDG 13/ CRPD 11/ IS Goal 7)– preparedness for emergency and response
2. Health (SDG 3/CRPD 25/ IS Goal 4)
3. Education ( SDG 4/CRPD 24/ IS Goal 5)
4. Social Protection (SDG 1 – 10/ CRPD 28/ IS Goal 1 – 4)

* **Session 4 –** This will be a facilitated session of plenary from the break out session focusing on key elements and actions to progress work in each of the thematic areas.

**Friday, 1 March 2019**

**Morning**

* **Session 5** – Leave no one behind. This session will focus on the marginalised groups within the disability movement.
  + Deaf people and Sign language
  + Deafblind
  + Psychosocial disability
  + Intellectual disability
  + Indigenous persons with disabilities
* **Session 6–** this session will focus on the pre-condition to inclusion**,** specifically looking at Accessibility, Assistive Technology and Community Based inclusion
  + Accessibility (SDG 4-10/ CRPD 9/ IS Goal 3)
  + Assistive Technology (SDG 10/ CRPD 9/19/20 – Motivation Australia
  + CBR/CBID19 (SDG 10/ CRPD 26/ IS Goal 3 – WHO
* **Session 7 –** this session will focus on the multi stakeholders partnership and regional cooperation (SDG 17/ CRPD 32/ IS Goal 10).
  + DFAT
  + EU
  + MFAT
  + Asian Development Bank
  + Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
  + Pacific Community
  + Pacific Islands Development Forum
  + Etc
  + UN Agencies

**Afternoon**

* **Session 8 –** this session will be a break out session
  + Women with disabilities
  + WASH
  + Disaster Risk Reduction/ Climate Change – building back better
  + Political participation Access to Justice
* **Session 9** – this session will be a plenary session and report back from the break out session focusing on key elements and actions to progress work in each of the thematic areas.
* **Session 9** – presentation of the outcome document and official closing

***Official Closing at 5.00pm followed by a Conference Dinner at 7.00pm***

1. [http://www.pacificdisability.org/What-We-Do/Research/FINAL\_SDG-Report\_Exec-Summary\_2018.aspx](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.pacificdisability.org%2fWhat-We-Do%2fResearch%2fFINAL_SDG-Report_Exec-Summary_2018.aspx&c=E,1,sDQKDzeN1UA8OXsgEynH3OXxKEmdGFmnInHIvDX9TTgbYBoSvCjCQLidmcbBgpkzmHO2d-m7dwdu3yfGfQe5llQ41d9tKOtPSnjnanJ_&typo=1) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)