



OUTCOMES STATEMENT

2nd Pacific Resilience Meeting Youth Forum

5 July 2021

The 2nd Youth Forum at the Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) was attended by more than 700 participants from across the Pacific Island countries and territories, under the PRM theme of **Our people, Our journey: nurturing Pacific resilience from home**. Key to the discussions was the sub theme of 'Why Youth Matter', a reminder to us and others that youth are actively engaged in building resilience in our communities. It was precluded by an online consultation, particularly for those youth who were unable to attend the Forum.

The Youth Forum began with a statement delivered by Childrens' Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Resilience advocate, Ms. Tokasa Senibiau, from the DRR Club in Valenicina Community in Fiji¹. She emphasized children and youth are worried about an unsafe and unhealthy future. She stated it is a right of children and youth, and an empowering protection strategy, to participate in disaster and risk assessment, and designing and implementing integrated DRR and climate change initiatives. She declared that while genuine participation required the transfer of power and responsibility to children and youth, it is not a replacement for adult responsibility.

The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Honorable Mr. Henry Puna, in his address, declared that 'Youth will be the lightning rod of change for our region'. He emphasized that youth bring a sense of reality, of urgency and a fresh perspective to policy conversations. Therefore, youth voice is instrumental to decision making and policy development. He commended youth for continually demonstrating courage and persistence, in mobilizing and advocating for resilience and climate action at all levels.

The Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Honourable Dr. Stuart Minchin in his address emphasized that youth development is a cross-cutting issue, and to achieve genuine and lasting improvement in the region, a multi-stakeholder approach is necessary. He also encouraged youth to continue to be actively engaged in resilience work.

¹ Tokasa Seinibiau, DRR Club in Valenicina Community, Lami, Fiji which is supported by Save the Children Fiji.

The Chair of the Pacific Resilience Partnership Youth Working Group², Mr. Sevuloni Rokomatu Ratu, in his remarks called for children and youth engagement to be recognized and embedded as part of the Pacific Resilience Partnership governance arrangement, to support the implementation of the Framework of Resilient Development in the Pacific.

The Youth Forum focused its discussions around the four pillars of resilience, that is, **Integrate, Include, Inform** and **Sustain**, and to this end:

- **Urge** collaboration amongst all partners to ensure the integration of disaster risk management and climate change.
- **Call** for the review of current national policies, frameworks and legislation to ensure integration of disaster risk management and climate change.
- **Encourages** the development of local capacities and the provision of finance to design, implement and evaluate integrated disaster risk management and climate change initiatives at national and regional level.
- **Recognizes and promotes** children and youth as educators, advocates, agents of change, volunteers and as equal partners in the fight against climate change; and
- **Encourage** young people to join the fight against COVID19 at the community, national & regional level.
- **Call** for the sharing and provision of resources to ensure the meaningful inclusion of children, youth, people living with disabilities, women and persons of diverse genders, in disaster risk management, humanitarian response and climate change decision making processes and actions.
- **Recognizes** the importance of traditional knowledge and practices in resilience building.
- **Urge** the promotion of intergenerational learning that will encourage young people and leaders to collaborate.
- **Promotes** a citizen and people centered approach to disaster risk management and climate change, to ensure access to humanitarian assistance and support required during disasters and climate emergencies, including the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.
- **Encourages** the provision of support to community leaders and communities, to build their capacity and engagement in strengthening their resilience, thus ensuring locally led resilience systems.
- **Supports** the progress that has been made on the youth resilience hub as a mechanism to strengthen the sharing of information, awareness and advocacy, and the promotion of Pacific wisdom and traditional knowledge; and
- **Welcome** the support of partner agencies in the development of the youth resilience hub.

² PRP Youth WG Chair from IFRC Pacific and co-chaired with Pacific Youth Council, including members from: PIANGO, Save the Children, Live & Learn, Oxfam, USP, Commonwealth Climate Youth Network, PIFS and SPC.

- **Promotes** the use of information technology including social media to share and receive information, including applications that can collate data during emergency response.
- **Encourages** the engagement of children and youth in the promotion of local and nature-based solutions to resilience.
- **Promotes** green, low carbon COVID19 recovery that will contribute to sustainable, environmentally friendly communities thus reducing the impact of COVID19 and climate change.
- **Call** for access to equitable, critical and intentional opportunities that cultivate new green jobs, entrepreneurship and financing which accelerates our regions capacity to address disaster risk and climate change.

WE encourage all constituents of the Pacific Resilience Partnership to disseminate and advocate the important messages outlined in this Outcomes Statement, recognizing its link to the overall PRM outcomes and its subsequent inclusion in the meeting report by the PRP Taskforce.

05 July 2021