



## FIFTH PACIFIC URBAN FORUM



*Accelerating implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific*

1-3 July 2019  
Nadi, Republic of the Fiji Islands



IMPLEMENTING  
THE NEW  
URBAN AGENDA  
IN THE PACIFIC

## BACKGROUND

The Pacific Urban Forum (PUF) is a regional event that aims to provide a unique and accessible platform for urban stakeholders to debate what creates a sustainable urban future for the region. The first PUF in 2003 gave rise to the Pacific Urban Agenda (PUA) which was endorsed by the United Nations ESCAP Commission in 2004 and by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2005. The PUFs in 2007 and 2011 reaffirmed commitment to the PUA in its format up to then.

The Fourth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF4), convened by UN-Habitat and CLGF Pacific from 25 to 27 March 2015 in Nadi, Fiji, focused on sustainable urbanization in the Pacific with a view to develop a New Urban Agenda for the region. The Forum provided a multi-stakeholder platform for discussion on the opportunities of well-managed urbanization and the inter-linkages between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of equitable sustainable development. It adopted the New Pacific Urban Agenda, highlighting that specific needs of the Pacific in the process of urbanization must be recognized and adequately addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. It also calls inter alia for stronger engagement of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies on urbanization challenges.

PUF4 also highlighted the relevance of the SAMOA Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism as entry points for enhancing policy engagement at the highest level on the importance of addressing critical Pacific urban challenges.

Habitat III, held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016 was the first United Nations global summit after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The New Urban Agenda sets out a common vision and global standards for urban development in the coming decades and it offers a paradigm

shift in the way we think, build, and manage cities. The New Urban Agenda directly addresses specific issues pertaining to Small Island Development States' (SIDS) unique and emerging urban development challenges, their acute vulnerabilities to the adverse impacts of climate change and their specific and interlinked needs emerging from transport and mobility challenges.

The Oceans Pathway championed by Fiji at COP23 in 2017 emphasized the special role of coastal cities and settlements in the ocean and climate nexus in support of the Paris Agreement on climate change. In Bonn, countries and development partners pledged their support for building resilience, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and protecting ocean health in coastal island cities.

At the request of the PIFS Secretary-General, a workshop was hosted by Australia National University (ANU) on 5-6 December 2017 to discuss how to address the rapid urbanization in the Pacific from a regional perspective. It highlighted the need for a body or mechanism to enable dialogue, sharing of knowledge and support innovation at a technical level. It further stressed the role of regional organizations such as PIFS in facilitating dialogue at leaders' level and to engage towards better integration of urban issues in regional policies. The Ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2018, concluded with a strong focus on arrangements and actions for implementation of the New Urban Agenda and an emphasis on the importance of public, private and civil society cooperation in order to fully achieve the New Urban Agenda. The WUF9 outcome document, Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, aims to localize and scale up the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Amongst other actionable recommendations, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration called for supporting "the creation

and consolidation of inclusive platforms and agendas for dialogue among all levels of government, decision makers and stakeholders such as regional, national and local Urban Forums and committees that can strengthen policy review and assessment of impacts. These can also foster exchange of experiences and cooperation, as well as scaling up voluntary commitments and actions from all partners”.

At WUF9, heads of Pacific island delegations and the members of the delegations, signed a statement reconfirming their commitment to the implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in their respective countries and urged for remobilization and reinvigoration of regional policy attention to urbanization issues.

Local and National Government Stakeholders reaffirmed their need for a Pacific Urban Forum in Nadi, 11-13 December 2018, stressing the importance of local governments taking a leadership role in building sustainable, safe, resilient and inclusive human settlements in the region. The workshop also reaffirmed the request of the 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Urban Forum for a strong regional commitment, in particular in partnership with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, in order to

successfully anchor and implement the Pacific New Urban Agenda. The pillars of the Pacific New Urban Agenda were considered to be remaining relevant, with the addition of ‘urban infrastructure’. ‘Strengthened urban governance’ was deemed to be the highest priority given the importance of this pillar as the foundation for all others. Participants also identified the importance of facilitating the informal sector given its contribution to the urban economy.

The Seventh session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum will be co-organised by UN ESCAP and UN-Habitat and held in Penang, Malaysia from 15-17 October 2019. The Forum provides a multi-stakeholder platform for urban policy actors in the region and will feature a dedicated stocktaking session on commitments made at the 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Urban Forum.

The Tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 8-13 February 2020 under the theme: “Cities of opportunities: connecting culture and innovation”. National, sub-regional and regional frameworks will play a key role in the forum, where thousands of participants from all stakeholder constituencies will share lessons and experiences on urbanization.



## 2

# THE FIFTH PACIFIC URBAN FORUM

The Fifth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF5) will be held in Nadi, Fiji, in the **first week of July 2019**. Following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda and a renewed recognition of the many opportunities and challenges for the Pacific, PUF5 will provide an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform for review of progress towards the Pacific New Urban Agenda and for exchange and dialogue for further action planning. In particular, the PUF5 will aim to:

- Catalyze the engagement and raise the awareness of all stakeholders for enhancing the role of Pacific cities and towns for achievement of national and regional policy frameworks and agendas;
- Improve the mechanisms for collection and exchange of knowledge and data on sustainable urbanization in the Pacific through open and accessible platforms for debates, sharing lessons learnt, best practices and good policies;
- Increase action amongst relevant stakeholders for implementation, review and monitoring of the Pacific New Urban Agenda including through concrete commitments from participating countries and institutions which can be followed up at subsequent key global, regional and local fora;
- Develop new partnerships to support an enabling environment for urban development in the Pacific.

The Forum will thus:

1. Review the Pacific New Urban Agenda based on country consultations and reporting, in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Habitat III outcomes and to take onboard emerging issues. Based on consultations, seek to articulate a set of key action-oriented policy-oriented goals for implementation.

2. Seek to develop an Action Plan with concrete country and stakeholder commitments for the implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda along its pillars/ goals and related areas, including:
  - a. Social Equity: Pacific Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy;
  - b. Environment, Resilience and Urbanization: “Ocean Cities”;
  - c. Urban Economy: Financing Cities and Local Economic Development;
  - d. Urban Governance: National Urban Policies and multi-stakeholder partnerships;
  - e. Urban Data and Technologies to accelerate sustainable development.
3. Provide recommendations on how to anchor the Pacific New Urban Agenda within the institutional and political regional architecture in the Pacific and support greater policy coherence in urbanization strategies and frameworks, as well as proposed strategies for engagement with other SIDS.
4. Elicit voluntary commitments from countries, cities, stakeholders and development partners for a more measurable implementation and follow up review process of the Pacific New Urban Agenda amongst relevant stakeholders active in the region.
5. Provide capacity development / shared learning opportunities in particular with regard to informal settlements upgrading.

The outcomes of PUF5 will provide contributions and inputs into global and regional platforms for sustainable urbanization, such as WUF10 and APUF 7.

## 3

## PARTICIPANTS

The Pacific Urban Forum has in the past successfully attracted a wide participation by urban policy makers and practitioners from different countries, particularly at national and local government level. Based on paragraphs 41 and 92 of the New Urban Agenda that reaffirm the importance of creating platforms and mechanisms for a wide and meaningful participation at all stages of the urban decisionmaking process, PUF5 will aim to further strengthen the inclusive engagement and participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

Participants of PUF5 will include relevant regional organizations (CROPs), national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, traditional leaders, professionals, research institutions and academies, private sector, relevant development partners as well as media.

National government representatives from all Pacific countries (UN members) will be invited. Countries previously engaged in PUFs include: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

The Forum will be open to all stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- National government representatives
- Local government representatives
- Civil society organizations
- Traditional Leaders
- Professionals (including regional networks such as Pacific Planners)
- Local and international academia
- Private sector, e.g. Regional Private Developers, consultancy and infrastructure companies
- Pacific Regional Organizations / CROP Agencies
- Development Partners
  - o UN System (incl. UNCTs/MCOs in PNG, Fiji, Samoa, UN-OHRLLS and members of the Pacific SDG Taskforce)
  - o Multi-lateral development banks (e.g. ADB and the World Bank)
  - o Pacific Regional Organizations
  - o Key donors

### Register now and plan your participation:

You can register via our online registration platform through the following link:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/puf5\\_registration](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/puf5_registration)

Further information on funding availability can be found in the online registration platform\*. If you would like to apply for funding, the deadline for registration is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.

\* Non-eligible organizations: International Organizations, NGOs outside the Pacific Region, academic institutions and private persons

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## AGENDA

### DAY 1

#### Opening: Urbanization in the Pacific

- AM
1. Opening and welcome
  2. Keynote Speech
  3. High-level plenary meeting - State of the Pacific New Urban Agenda and Political and Institutional Anchoring
  4. "Listen to Cities". Local governments and urbanization in the Pacific

#### Governance and Data

- PM
1. Opening of Exhibition
  - 2a. Special Session 1: National Urban Policies and linkages to National Development Strategies
  - 2b. Special Session 2: Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals – Urban Data for Policy Making
  3. Constituency meetings (women, children and youth, national government, local government, academia, communities, private sector)

### DAY 2

#### Urban Resilience and Climate Change

- AM
1. Thematic plenary: The future of urban resilience and its application in the Pacific
  - 2a. Special Session 3: Making cities and human settlements resilient
  - 2b. Special Session 4: Integrated approach for ocean-focused climate-responsive urban development, and urban ecosystem-based adaptation
  3. Side Events and Trainings

#### Informal Settlements, Land and Planning

- PM
1. Thematic plenary
  - 2a. Special Session 5: Informal Settlements Upgrading – evidence-based interventions
  - 2b. Special Session 6: Urban Land Use and Territorial Planning in the Pacific
  3. Side Events and Trainings

## DAY 3

### Urban Economic Development

- AM
1. Thematic plenary
  - 2a. Special Session 7: Cities at the center of economic growth in the Pacific (rural urban linkages, hubs for interisland trade, facilitating the informal economy)
  - 2b. Special Session 8: Green Growth and Urban Mobility
  3. Side Events and Trainings

### Way Forward and Closing

- PM
1. Thematic work plans and means of implementation – presentations from previous days
  2. Institutional and Political Anchoring of the Pacific New Urban Agenda
  3. Outcome Document presentation and agreement – call to action and showcasing voluntary commitments and roadmap towards APUF7 and WUF10
  4. Closing

#### Call for Side Events

Interested organizations from government, inter-governmental organizations, civil society, private sector and other stakeholder groups are invited to express their interest in organising side events during PUF5. Side events should have a theme or purpose that is connected to the PUF5 themes.

- Online Application form: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/puf5\\_side\\_events](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/puf5_side_events)
- Deadline for Submission: 31 May 2019

#### Exhibition

An exhibition area will be available for poster exhibition, display of material and presentations. Posters will be displayed for the duration of PUF5 (1-3 July, 2019).

Country delegations are invited to participate in the exhibition.

Other participants from inter-governmental organizations, Civil Society, Private Sector and other stakeholder groups are also invited to present relevant material in the poster exhibition area.

- Details: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/puf5\\_exhibition](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/puf5_exhibition)
- Deadline for Submission: 14 June 2019

For more information please visit our website:  
[www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/info/news/puf.html](http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/info/news/puf.html)

Contact Details:  
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PUF5 is supported by:

## HOST



The Ministry of Housing and Community Development and the Ministry of Local Government are the lead agencies for managing and planning urban growth and development in Fiji. MLG and MHCD are responsible for the formulation and implementation of local government, urban development and housing policy through an integrated approach to reduce poverty.

## SPONSORS AND COORGANIZERS



UN-Habitat co-organized all Pacific Urban Fora to date. As the custodian of the New Urban Agenda and in line with SDG 11 the agency aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



MONASH  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

The Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI) is one of the leading institutes for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. MSDI provides an interdisciplinary platform to collaborate, to educate, to take action - and to make a real difference.



The CLGF Pacific Programme works with national and local government and other stakeholders in the Pacific region to strengthen local democracy, institutions and service delivery capacity through exchange of good practice, technical assistance projects and research.



The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is the regional development arm of the United Nations and serves as its the main regional economic and social development centre. Its mandate is to foster cooperation between its 53 members and 9 associate members. ESCAP provides the strategic link between the global and country-level programmes and issues. It supports governments in consolidating regional positions and advocates regional approaches to meeting the unique socioeconomic challenges in a globalizing world. ESCAP is headquartered in Bangkok and maintains a sub-regional office for the Pacific in Suva, Fiji.



The Pacific Islands Forum aims to strengthen regional cooperation and integration in order to further Members' shared goals of economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security. The Pacific Islands Forum works to achieve this by fostering cooperation between governments, collaboration with international agencies, and by representing the interests of its members.



The Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE) program is a global partnership of 25 institutions aiming to transform water and sanitation servicing approaches in urban informal settlements.



The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is a partnership of the European Commission, the ACP Secretariat and UN-Habitat supporting informal settlements upgrading and slum prevention throughout the Pacific.



Compass Housing is an Australian-based community housing provider and an advocate for the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in Australasia and the Pacific region. Compass is a Lead Partner with the World Urban Campaign and is currently developing its humanitarian activities in the Pacific region.