



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

5th PACIFIC URBAN FORUM

1-3 JULY, 2019

NADI, REPUBLIC OF FIJI

SUMMARY REPORT

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

Host



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Sponsors and Co-organizers



MONASH University



Commonwealth
Local Government
Forum



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT

rise
REVITALISING INFORMAL
SETTLEMENTS AND
THEIR ENVIRONMENTS



OVERVIEW

The Fifth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF5) was 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 provided an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform for review of progress towards the Pacific New Urban Agenda and for exchange and dialogue for further action planning.

More than 200 participants from 25 countries, including high level representation from 13 Pacific Islands countries attended the three-day Forum focused on “Accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific”. The event was hosted by the Government of Fiji and co-organized by a range of partners, including UN-Habitat, Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Monash University, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UN ESCAP and Compass Housing Services.

PUF5 aimed 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;
- Develop new partnerships to support an enabling environment for urban development in the Pacific.



PUF5 in numbers

185 registered participants from
25 countries
2 Heads of State
6 Ministers
11 country delegations from the region
 Civil society organizations
 Professionals
 UN system participation
 Private sector



Female participants
 Male participants

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OUTCOMES

Participants across the event, recognized the importance of urbanization for sustainable development and agreed on long-term national planning for urbanization through national sustainable development plans, urban policies and sector plans to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific. The following actions took place during the Forum:

- 1.** Review of progress towards the Pacific New Urban Agenda based on country consultations and reporting, in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Habitat III outcomes and emerging issues.
- 2.** Adoption of a declaration reaffirming the commitment towards the Pacific New Urban Agenda and its accelerated implementation to achieve sustainable urbanization in the Pacific.
- 3.** Development of an Action Plan with concrete voluntary country and stakeholder commitments for the implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda along its pillars/goals and related areas, including:

- a. Social Equity
- b. Environment, Resilience and Urbanization, including urban infrastructure as an additional key element
- c. Urban Economy
- d. Urban Governance

Two new partnerships were also established, strengthening collaboration and dialogue in the Pacific region:

- A plan to develop affordable housing for low and middle-income families in Port Moresby was signed between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the International Finance Cooperation.
- The Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) International, EAROPH Australia, the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the New Zealand Planning Institute agreed on stronger collaboration to achieve sustainable urban development in the region.



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama underlined sustainable urban development as a tool to tackle inequality and climate vulnerability:

“ The impact of our actions, the boldness of our decisions and the strength of our cooperation of this Forum and beyond, will determine whether those urban centres emerge as engines of sustainable development, or bastions of inequity and climate vulnerability.



The Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon. Enele Sosana Sopoaga committed to support the successful political anchoring of the Pacific New Urban Agenda at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and at regional and global fora including the Seventh Asia Pacific Forum and the Tenth session of the World Urban Forum:

“ As incoming Chairman, I will be happy to place in the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' discussions the outcomes of this Forum

Pillars of the Pacific New Urban Agenda



Social Equity

Environment,
Resilience &
Urbanization

Urban Economy



Urban Governance

Gov. Powes Parkop & IFC
representativeRepresentatives from EAROPH
International, EAROPH Australia,
Commonwealth Association of Planners
& New Zealand Planning Institute

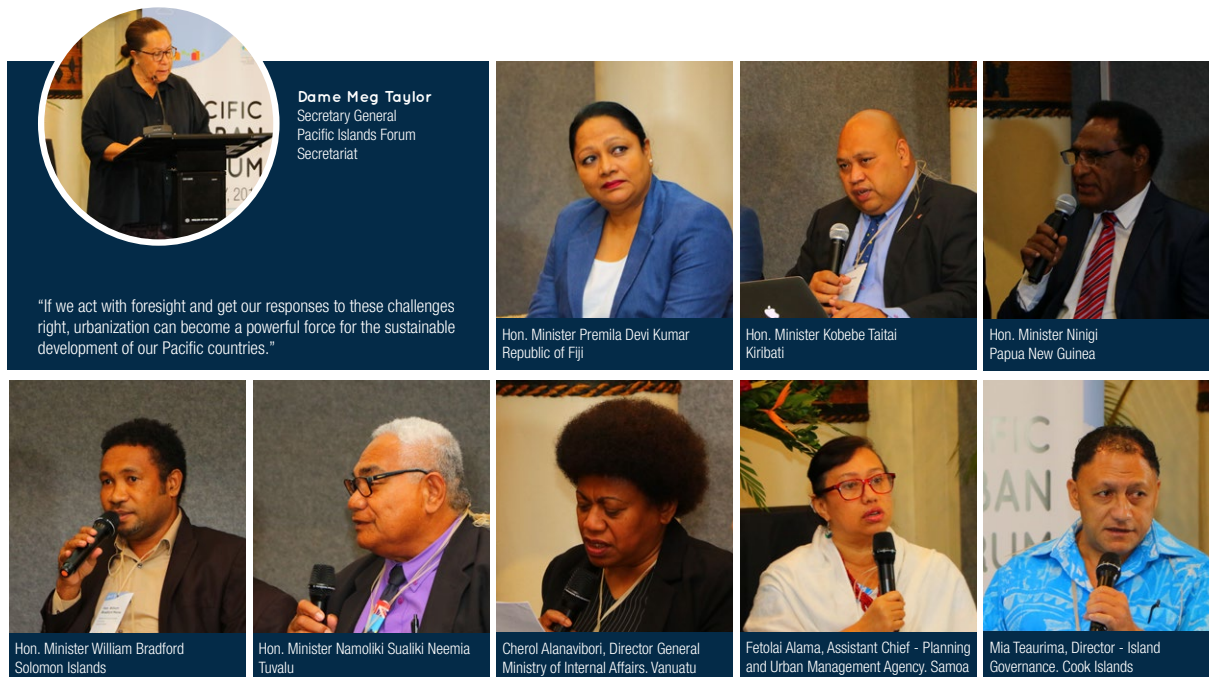
HIGH-LEVEL SESSIONS

During the welcome speech, Hon. Premila Devi Kumar, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government and Housing and Community Development, Republic of Fiji, underlined the critical importance of enhancing urban management, in order to create better social, economic and environmental urban outcomes for the Pacific Islands countries. She was echoed by Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat who highlighted the need for a regional approach to urbanization: “If we act with foresight and get our responses to these challenges right, urbanization can become a powerful force for the sustainable development of our Pacific countries.”

The High-level Plenary Meeting explored the state of the Pacific New Urban Agenda and how its political and institutional anchoring can be strengthened. In the Pacific, despite rapid urbanization being a critical concern, it remains a marginal

policy issue. The barriers to why this is the case, the compelling rationale for why the issue needs greater attention, and the potential opportunities through existing global and regional frameworks to elevate urbanization on the regional political and institutional agenda, were explored. The session provided an opportunity for country representatives to share their perspectives around urbanization in the context of what their country was doing and where they saw the opportunity to anchor the issue.

The Listen to Cities plenary session provided insights into how local governments around the Pacific are managing rapid urbanisation. During the session, representatives from local governments across five countries in the region deliberated on how best national and local governments can be supported to successfully implement the New Urban Agenda and achieve SDG11.



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SPECIAL SESSIONS & OTHER EVENTS

The three day forum included Special Sessions and Side Events on the main themes 'Governance and Data', 'Urban Resilience and Climate Change', 'Informal Settlements, Land and Planning' and 'Urban Economic Development'. A total of eight Special Sessions were organized:

Governance & Data

- **National Urban Policies (NUP):** Contributed to the periodic review of NUPs in the region in alignment with one of the actions points from the PNUA.
- **Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific:** Focused on how relevant commitments made in the New Urban Agenda can be operationalised.

Urban Resilience & Climate Change

- **Making cities and human settlements resilient:** Discussed implementation strategies to make cities and human settlements resilient.
- **Integrated approach for ocean-focused**

climate-responsive urban development:

Focused on the Ocean Cities concept - an integrated policy approach for ocean-focused and climate-responsive urban development strategies.

Informal Settlements, land use and planning

- **Informal Settlements Upgrading:** Brought to light the multiple facets of successful upgrading interventions, and explored the need for holistic, integrated solutions.
- **Cities at the centre of economic growth in the Pacific:** Highlighted some new opportunities for building local economies.

Urban Economic Development

- **Urban Land Use & Territorial Planning:** Examined urban land use and territorial planning in the context of rapid urbanisation and climate change.
- **Affordable Housing:** Explored the issues experienced in PICS related to housing affordability and availability and appropriate housing options.



Nine side events were organized during the Forum. A wide range of topics were covered, from new waste and energy solutions to human right issues in the Pacific and the use of drones for data collection in informal settlements.

The training on Financing Citywide Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy focused on the Financial Strategy Toolkit developed by UN-Habitat. The tool is meant to assist countries in developing realistic and innovative finance mobilization models that can be used to fund citywide slum upgrading strategies.

On the second day, a site visit was organized to Nasoata settlement and Ledrusasa settlement. This provided the opportunity to raise awareness on some of the main challenges related to climate change being faced by communities across Fiji. Furthermore, the Ledrusasa Project showcased the work

done by the The Ministry of Housing and Community Development in informal settlements upgrading and strategies for providing affordable houses.

As part of the Forum, a poster and booth exhibition area was organized for organizations to present their work. 12 booths showcased projects implemented by organizations, including informal settlements upgrading projects in various countries across the Pacific Region, energy and waste technologies, eco-based solutions, among others.

The Forum ended with a session on Thematic Work Plans, where the results from working groups of previous days were presented, a revision of the outcome document and the Key-note of the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, who successfully closed the Forum, laying the path to achieve the outcomes of PUF5.



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ROADMAP

The **Fourth Pacific Urban Forum** (PUF4) in 2015 adopted the New Pacific Urban Agenda, highlighting that specific needs of the Pacific in the process of urbanization must be recognized and adequately addressed.

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 **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.

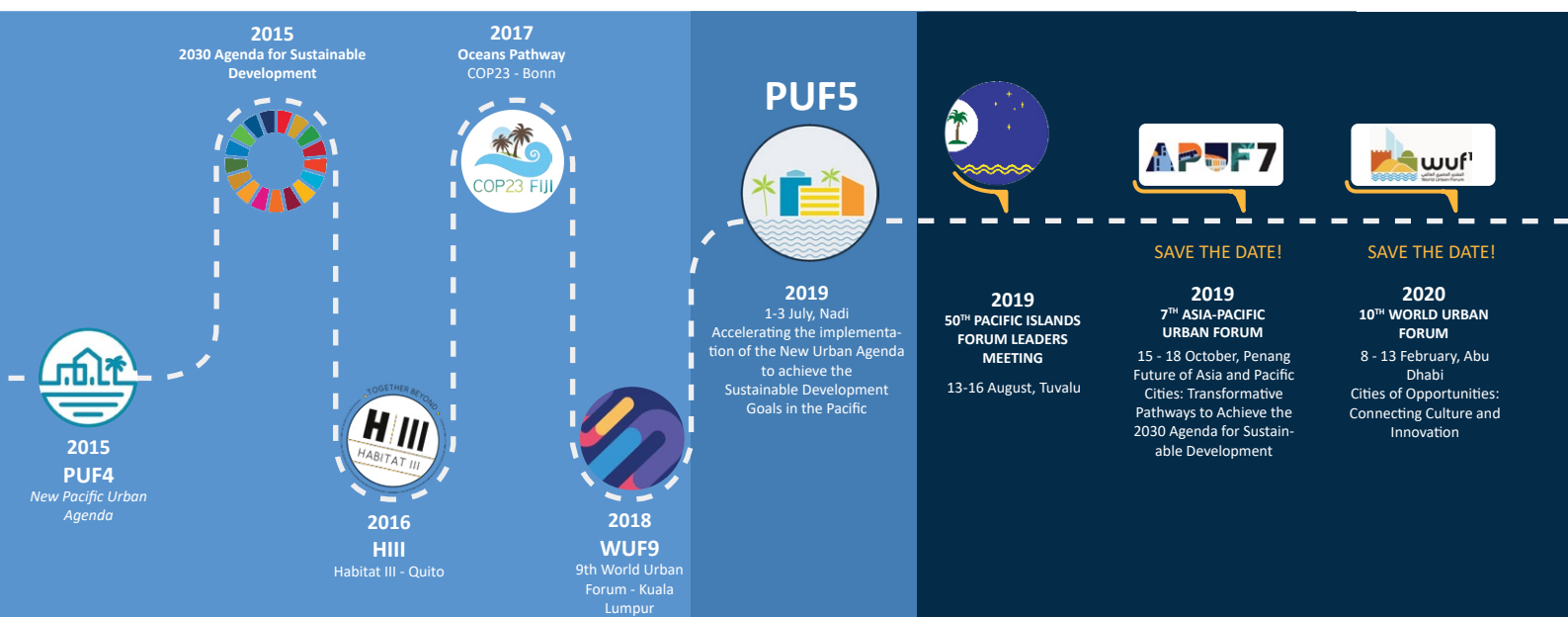
During the **Ninth session of the World Urban Forum** (WUF9) held in Kuala Lumpur (2018), heads of Pacific island delegations and the members of the delegations, signed a statement reconfirming their commitment to the

implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in their respective countries.

The **Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting** will be held in Tuvalu. Hon. Enele Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu and incoming Chairman of the PIF will place the outcomes of the Pacific Urban Forum in the PIF Leaders' discussions.

The **Seventh session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum** will provide a multi-stakeholder platform for urban policy actors in the region and will feature a dedicated stocktaking session on commitments made at the 5th 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".



DECLARATION

MAKING PACIFIC CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROSPEROUS, INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

NADI, REPUBLIC OF FIJI

3 JULY 2019

We, the participants of the Fifth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF5) held in Nadi, Republic of Fiji, from 1-3 July 2019, representing national, sub-national and local governments, academia, professionals, international and regional organizations, civil society, urban poor, women, youth organizations and other stakeholders, thanking the Government of Fiji for hosting and the co-organizers for convening PUF5;

A. Past progress and agreements guiding our 5th Pacific Urban Forum (PUF) engagement:

1. Recalling that the Pacific Urban Agenda (PUA) was developed in 2015, with discussions starting at the First Pacific Urban Forum (PUF) in 2003, which was revisited at successive PUFs in 2007 and 2011 and further refined and strengthened at the Fourth PUF in 2015 with the adoption of four thematic priority pillars with corresponding actions;
2. Recognizing that since the Fourth PUF, significant multilateral agreements on sustainable development have been made, particularly in 2015 with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and that these agreements set universally applicable frameworks and goals to tackle global challenges, including urbanization;
3. Recognizing that the global issue of urbanization was reinforced in 2016 with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, which affirms and acknowledges that urbanization is an accelerator for sustainable development, and called for a commitment to promote inclusive decision-making, planning and follow-up processes (para 41) and for new forms of partnerships between governments at all levels and civil society (para 92);
4. Recalling the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, made at the Ninth World Urban Forum (WUF9) in 2018, which encouraged and called for the formulation of New Urban Agenda implementation frameworks at all levels, the creation and consolidation of inclusive platforms and collaborative agendas;
5. Further recalling the Ministerial Statement signed by heads of Pacific Island delegations present at WUF9, stressing the need to remobilize and reinvigorate the Pacific region's attention to urban matters, in line with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and for efforts to strengthen policy and implementation mechanisms for the PUA;
6. Recognizing Small Island Development State (SIDS) specific frameworks such as the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, which agreed on accelerated modalities of action for the resilience and sustainable development of SIDS that face similar development challenges;
7. Recalling regional frameworks such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and reiterating, as recognized in the Boe Declaration, that climate change is the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and wellbeing of Pacific people, including urban inhabitants;
8. Noting that a PUF preparatory meeting was convened by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum in December 2018 and that partners called for stronger actions to be taken to implement the four pillars of the PUA: social equity; environment, resilience and urbanization; urban economy and urban governance, but also including urban infrastructure as an additional key element.

B. Outcomes from our engagement at PUF5

9. Recognise that urbanisation is a powerful force for sustainable development and that the Pacific's urban transformation requires an urgent response;
10. Re-emphasize that climate change is a crisis for the Pacific region and the world, representing a significant threat for sustainable development, and that reducing the vulnerability and contribution of Pacific cities and human settlements to climate change and natural hazards calls for a reconsideration of the way cities are planned and transformed and the way infrastructure is developed;
11. Emphasize that urbanization is a pressing concern for the region and requires a regional response as, like other issues such as climate change and migration, the issue has transboundary implications, and that in the coming decade Pacific urban populations, including a burgeoning youth population, will outnumber rural populations;
12. Commit to ensuring social equity and the "right to the city" through urban development, recognizing the positive role women, youth and all people play in the co-creation of inclusive, liveable and prosperous cities;
13. Re-emphasize commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (particularly Sustainable Development Goal 11), the New Urban Agenda (para 31) for adequate housing, and the PUA for upscaling the provision of affordable and adequate housing, improving access to housing and land, and settlement upgrading;
14. Acknowledge that sustainable urbanisation for the Pacific is based on a system of cities approach that promotes balanced territorial development and positive connectivity between islands, rural centres, intermediary and primary cities;
15. Remain concerned that accelerated urban growth is leading to growing informal settlements in urban and peri-urban areas with often extremely poor housing conditions, lack of access to infrastructure and basic urban services, and precarious informal employment;
16. Recognize that access to land and land governance significantly impact urbanization and that the lack thereof fundamentally hampers the way cities and towns in the region can grow. Land and planning legislation, urban data, and the capacities of urban professionals such as planners and land management specialists have a particular role to play in unlocking the sustainable development potential in the region;
17. Reaffirm that an integrated approach to urban planning includes a consideration of diverse, appropriate and accessible housing options, a mix of land uses and incomes, inclusive public spaces, sustainable urban design, safety measures and the integration of land markets;
18. Recognize the use of local materials and appropriate building technologies as an essential component of developing adequate, safe and resilient housing;
19. Acknowledge that while all Pacific Island Countries are different and that the diversity of our islands is to be respected, we face similar challenges arising from rapid urbanisation and that this similarity provides an opportunity to address urbanisation in a coordinated and integrated regional manner;
20. Respect that existing structures, agreements and frameworks under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism,



such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, the Boe Declaration, the SAMOA Pathway, the Ocean Pathway and the Voluntary National Review mechanisms under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly under Sustainable Development Goal 11, including its positive interlinkages with the urban dimensions of all other Sustainable Development Goals, provide a platform to highlight urbanization issues and to promote broader discussions;

21. Acknowledge that the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is well placed to coordinate any diagnosis of current regional Pacific governance architecture that seeks to harmonise and elevate efforts to address urbanisation in the Pacific in a coherent and coordinated manner, and that PIFS is equally well placed to support the monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes of such a governance structure as well as the implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda;
22. Advocate that effective urbanization responses will be made stronger by drawing upon the expertise of a diverse range of stakeholders to build a “coalition of the willing” and that forming action orientated partnerships at all levels should be considered;
23. Emphasize the role of Pacific communities as active and meaningful partners in setting the development agenda in their villages and human settlements, as well as in local level planning and national approaches to urbanization;
24. Acknowledge the need for infrastructure to include resilient, sustainable and inclusive design principles, and local knowledge, including nature-based solutions, to avoid costs to future generations;
25. Highlight that fostering a sense of belonging in cities, including investing in inclusive public spaces for gathering, such as markets, securing land tenure and appreciating the interaction between the urban and traditional settlements, assist in building the social fabric of a city, which complements approaches to building urban resilience.

C. Recommendations

Based on the aforementioned outcomes, we the participants:

26. Advocate for a Pacific vision of sustainable urbanisation whereby urban areas are prosperous, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and that accord to Pacific history, values and context;
27. Call for the integration of traditional knowledge, structures and practices into codes, policies, planning and institutional structures;
28. Encourage all Pacific countries to develop national level planning for urbanization through national sustainable development plans, urban and housing policies and sector plans so as to effectively harness the positive gains that urbanization offers for the benefit of future generations;
29. Recommend that urban development planning and budgeting incorporate the four pillars of the PUA (social equity; environment, resilience and urbanization; urban economy; and urban governance), with additional consideration also being given to urban infrastructure, to achieve sustainable urban development;

30. Recommend meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement, including women, youth, people with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, so as to leave no one behind;
31. Call for a stronger evidence base and use of evidence, including innovative forms of data collection and analysis, in order to make effective policy, planning and investment decisions;
32. Recommend that the current regional institutional and governance architecture and frameworks are strengthened to elevate and accelerate efforts to address urbanization;
33. Emphasize the need for increased, coherent investment and financing for sustainable urban development at regional, country and local levels to tackle the major urban challenges at scale;
34. Call on our international partners, particularly UN-Habitat and ESCAP, to ensure that the progress in implementing the PUA, and the commitments made at PUF5, are reflected and followed-up at occasions such as the Seventh session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum to be held in Penang, Malaysia, and in the Tenth session of the World Urban Forum to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;
35. Request the incoming Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum to table this Declaration at the upcoming Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting in Tuvalu and for the Forum to favorably consider its recommendations for action within appropriate regional architecture and processes;
36. Commit to building and strengthening our partnership to accelerate efforts, and to increase resources and commitments towards the implementation of this Declaration and the Pacific Urban Agenda.



Port Vila, Vanuatu / UN-Habitat, Bernhard Barth

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 Pacific Urban Platform

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 <http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/info/news/puf.html>

