



Towards a New Pacific Urban Agenda

Harnessing Opportunities in a Post-2015 Environment

Pacific Urban Forum

25-27 March 2015

Nadi, Fiji



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums



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Report of the Pacific Urban Forum

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Executive Summary

The fourth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF) 2015 was attended by 70 participants representing national and local governments, utilities and state owned enterprises, national housing corporations, the private sector, academia, youth and women groups, Civil Society Organizations and development partners such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union (EU), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and the World Bank (WB). Participating countries included Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The meeting, held from 25-27 March, 2015 in Nadi, Fiji was organized by UN-Habitat and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Pacific and supported by the Cities Alliance. The three-day meeting focused on the theme: ‘Towards a New Pacific Urban Agenda: Harnessing Opportunities in a Post-2015 Environment’ and was structured around the four main areas of development: social equity, urban economy, environment and governance.

The PUF format consisted of a combination of presentations, question time, group work with additional innovation booths set up to display case studies such as the Participatory Settlement Upgrading Programme (PSUP) in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, Samoa’s City Development Strategy (CDS) and the ADB’s Disaster Mapping in Fiji. Participants were provided with the opportunity to address the specific needs and challenges of rapid urbanization in the Pacific region. They discussed the region’s key urban development challenges and proposed innovative solutions. The format also allowed for further networking and exchange of information in a less formal setting.

The Outcome Statement, the “New Pacific Urban Agenda” (Annex 2) called on all actors at the local, national and regional levels to address issues of social equity, urban economy, environment and resilience and governance and to link Pacific concerns with global processes in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Background

The Pacific Urban Forum (PUF) concluded with a strong call for sustainable solutions to the challenges of urbanization and its impact on towns and cities in the Pacific region. The 2015 Forum built on the work that first began in 2003, with the development of the Pacific Urban Agenda (PUA), endorsed by regional leaders in 2005 for inclusion in the Pacific Plan.

The PUF 2015 aimed to:

- Catalyse the engagement of national and local authorities, urban stakeholders and development partners for replication of identified solutions for improved urban management and access to affordable housing and basic urban services;
- Encourage the strengthening of established networks for best practices and peer exchange such as through the Pacific Capital Cities Forum, Climate Change platforms, research institutes and academia;
- Inspire change and build on positive country-led approaches and attitudes to urbanization through the identification of actionable steps to incorporate the New Urban Agenda into national development plans and resource mobilization;
- Secure Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) support and commitment to shared goals and actions for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements and an articulated roadmap to a strengthened presence and contribution at Habitat III;
- Explore cooperation opportunities and links to regional and global processes and urban development objectives to foster an enabling environment in the Pacific region.

Summary of Proceedings

Opening Session

PUF participants were welcomed by **Mr. Jiuta Waqavonovono, Divisional Officer Nadi Town**. **Mr. Bernhard Barth, UN-Habitat, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific** also welcomed participants on behalf of the organizers (UN-Habitat and CLGF) and the event sponsor (Cities Alliance). He thanked participants for their attendance, in particular those participants from countries that had been affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam. He informed participants that delegations from Vanuatu and Tuvalu were much smaller than anticipated as many of those registered were heavily involved in recovery operations.



Mr. Bernhard Barth, UN-Habitat, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, speaks at the opening session of the Pacific Urban Forum.

Mr. David Smith, Deputy Head of ESCAP Pacific Office delivered the keynote address. He outlined ESCAP's contribution to the preparation of the Pacific Urban Agenda (PUA) in 2003, predating the establishment of the Pacific UN-Habitat office. At the early stage, the PUA had set the stage for regional cooperation, knowledge sharing and networking to begin discussion on the increasing urban population of Pacific cities and towns. By PUF 2011, four themes were endorsed: (i) Institutional framework for urban development and management, (ii) Urban environment, (iii) Access to service and shelter, and (iv) Urban quality of life. Significant progress has taken place since PUF 2011 in addressing urban concerns, seeing national urbanization and housing policies being prepared which provide a foundation for the implementation of the PUA.

He reiterated that the Pacific had become increasingly urbanized with over half the region's population living in urban and peri-urban areas. He said that the PUF needed to recognize engagement in global climate change processes and highlight the plight of towns and other human settlements in the Pacific in this regard. He said more efforts were needed to empower and capacitate communities and local authorities in climate change actions and disaster risk reduction and management.

Session 1:
Urban Trends Overview

Dr. Paul Jones, Professor, University of Sydney, discussed urbanization in the Pacific as a process of social, economic and environmental change played out from before independence when colonizers attempted to break the link between landowner, family and traditional settlement patterns.

He provided an overview of key urban indicators, highlighting that across the Pacific the average urbanization across countries was 47%. The number of people living in towns and cities was just over 2.4 million, 22% of the total; excluding PNG, by far the largest country in the region, 44% of the population were living in urban areas.

As key issues and concerns, Dr. Jones highlighted that rapid urbanization fuelled the growth of squatter and informal settlements, that affordable land and housing were becoming increasingly scarce, that a multitude of planning systems could be observed including bottom up planning in informal settlements, and reactionary planning (rather than strategic forward looking planning), many towns and cities failed to align the demand and the supply for services and infrastructure and environmental concerns were on the rise, with sustainability under threat given climate change and natural disasters.



Ms. Sarah Mecartney, UN-Habitat, introduced the session.



Dr. Paul Jones provided an overview of key urban indicators during the first session of the Forum.

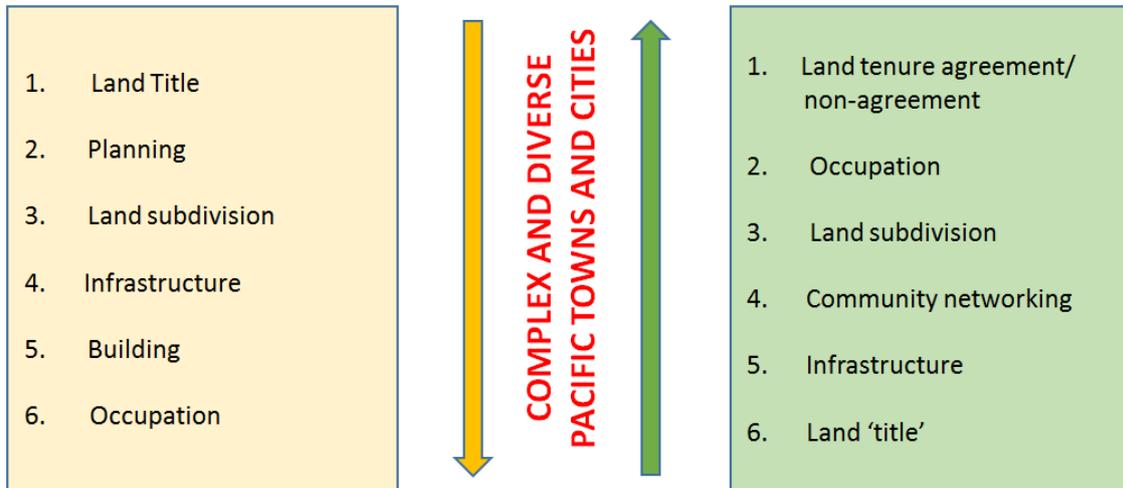
Dr. Jones highlighted that urban reform can be driven by up-scaling affordable land and housing solutions, learning and sharing the Pacific’s many good practices with regard to urban work, rethinking the “one size fits all approach” to projects and programs, and reconsidering the current view of the Pacific town and city and how best to plan. Land issues are critical, land reform processes need to be accelerated. The scope to improve urban governance exists, in particular in Melanesia.

Fig.1: MAKING AND SHAPING THE PACIFIC TOWN AND CITY

Introducing the need to rethink urban processes in the Pacific using the tenure reality as a starting point.

Formal system 'top down' urban process

Informal 'bottom up' urban process



Session 2:

Sustainable Urban Development in a Post 2015 Development Agenda

Mr David Smith, UNESCAP Pacific Office discussed the SDG process and the SAMOA Pathway in the context of promoting sustainable urban development.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2016. The MDGs were established following the adoption of the Millennium Declaration at the UN Summit in 2000. All 193 members of the UN agreed to meet the MDG targets by 2015. Targets and indicators were developed using a top-down approach. The eight goals are broken down into 21 targets and 61 indicators to measure progress. Of particular importance for urban development is Target 7 D: "By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers."

The urban dimension is significantly more strongly addressed in the SDGs. One dedicated goal (out of 17) with seven targets and three "Means of Verification" are dedicated to urban development issues.

During the Pacific MDG Consultation on the post-2015 agenda (Nov 2014), participants expressed concern over the breadth and complexity of the goals and targets. The challenge now is to identify, prioritise and make the post-2015 agenda achievable for Pacific countries. The SAMOA Pathway, although not focused on the urban dimension, can also help provide SIDS with context for implementation of the SDGs.

Mr. Scott Hook, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, discussed the opportunity for advancing the urban development agenda within the Framework for Pacific regionalism. He provided a historical overview of the "Pacific Plan" and its evolution to five priorities and 37 themes. The Pacific Plan review, which took place in 2013, concluded that it did not create the right platforms for political dialogue or have the right supporting institutions for advancing regionalism. Future regionalism should focus on deeper integration, based on Leaders' vision and values, and be supported by a process that reflects the true drivers of progress in the region.



Panelists discussed the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda.

The Pacific Urban Agenda was a part of the previous Pacific Plan, but with 37 priorities, it may not have received the attention it deserved. It was therefore critical to ensure that the New Pacific Urban Agenda be carried forward, possibly independently.

Ms. Megan Praeger, Regional Programme Coordinator, Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Pacific, discussed localizing the SDG process in the Pacific. Vanuatu was chosen as the case study for the localization consultation in 2014. The localization of SDGs is a means for local governments to implement the SDGs as well as a monitoring mechanism to measure progress of SDGs at subnational level.

Findings of the Vanuatu Localization Consultations include: A lack of awareness about both global and national goals and how they relate to stakeholder activities, thus causing local authorities to become critical of promoting inclusive sustainable development within their territories.

The implementation of the SDGs at local level requires stronger national commitment towards decentralization and provisions of adequate legal frameworks, institutional and financial capacity to local governments.

Mr. Roi Chiti, Habitat III Secretariat, provided an overview of the Habitat III process and regional preparations. Habitat III is the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development which will take place in 2016. It will be one of the first global conferences after the Post 2015 Development Agenda the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and will provide the opportunity time to discuss the implementation of the City and Human Settlements-related Sustainable Development Targets charting new pathways in response to the challenges of urbanization in the context of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Habitat III aims to define the New Urban Agenda as follows:

The New Urban Agenda should be **Universal**; it should equally be applicable to developed and developing countries. Based on the assumption that urbanisation is a source of development and not a by-product of development, the New Urban Agenda needs to sketch out how “good urbanization” is to take place and what the new model city should look like.

Key elements of the New Urban Agenda are:

- ❖ **National Urban Policy** Establishing a connection between the dynamics of urbanisation and the overall process of national development (20-30 years or more)
- ❖ **Laws, institutions and systems of governance** Creating the normative basis of action, organisational structures, institutional and societal relationships underlying the urbanisation
- ❖ **Urban economy, harnessing the strong positive correlation between economic growth and urbanisation.** Habitat III should be the means to guide robust urban economic development.

In order to draw on the lessons learnt since Habitat II, Governments were asked in 2013 to prepare National Reports to provide evidence based knowledge on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Considering the remoteness and size of Pacific Islands to make a substantive presence on the global arena, group meetings were conducted at the PUF to discuss each country's engagement. Participants agreed to develop national profiles for a collective Pacific urban voice at Habitat III. The PUF outcomes document will also constitute a valuable input to the Asia-Pacific region preparations towards Habitat III ahead of the formulation of a new global urban agenda for the next 20 years.



Mr Roi Chiti, Habitat III Secretariat, discussed the 2016 Habitat III process and regional preparations

Session 3:

Priority Issues for Sustainable Urban Development in the Pacific

Part A: Social Development

Mr. Max Kep, Director, Office of Urbanization, Papua New Guinea and Mr. Vincent Pyati, UN-HABITAT, Papua New Guinea, discussed the urban planning system in PNG, identifying the barriers in the existing system and their effects.

Mr. Pyati highlighted that the urban planning system in Papua New Guinea creates significant barriers which holds back social development. He stressed that generally there were no pro-poor provisions in the existing legal and policy framework, a rigid planning process was advocated which was impossible to follow by low-income households, no solidarity was built into the planning processes, aggravated by the lack of human resources and financial constraints. This resulted in the rapid growth of upland settlements, the increase in street vending, lawlessness, environmental degradation and increase in airborne diseases such as Tuberculosis.

The vision of a new Settlements Upgrading Strategy was to develop inclusive cities and towns without informal settlements and the goal was to develop affordable and participatory measures for upgrading settlements.

Some of the achievements thus far include:

- Establishment of a National Urbanization Policy which provides a framework for awareness and advocacy and most importantly, a wider stakeholder engagement.
- Settlements Committees were increasingly voicing their concerns and a Port Moresby wide organization has been set up in support.
- A National Settlement Upgrading Strategy was being drafted.
- Data was being collected for informed decision making.



*Mr. Max Kep, the Office of Urbanization, Papua New Guinea
and Mr. Vincent Pyati, UN-Habitat, Papua New Guinea*

Reflections from the Workshop on Sanitation and Water Services in Informal Settlements were provided by **Ms. Allison Woodruff, Asian Development Bank**.

Populations in settlements are expected to grow in less than a decade as a result of rapid urban growth in the Pacific. In cities such as Port Moresby and Honiara, a large majority of the population is urban based. Providing informal settlements with services is a complex challenge, which is often ignored and overlooked by policy-makers and utilities, which prefer to focus on customer groups in formal areas that are easier to serve. It is often vulnerable and marginalized groups, particularly women and children, which bear the burden of inadequate services in settlements. Some of the reasons for the lack of access to improved WASH services in informal settlements was discussed and included: A lack of secure tenure, inaccessibility of some informal settlements, limited ability and willingness to pay, unclear responsibilities, peri-urban areas fall into a 'grey area' and many settlements lie outside of the town boundary and fall under the responsibility of rural authorities which are ill-equipped to provide basic services to settlements.

New approaches are needed and whilst some such approaches are emerging (and were presented at the workshop) they need to be further advanced. Utilities cannot be expected to pick up the challenge on their own; they require the support of a number of stakeholders (local and national government, NGOs, development partners).

Inspiration, Innovation, Success:
Case Studies from the Field,
Presentations of Innovation Booths

The Participatory Settlement Upgrading Program (PSUP): Pacific Experience. Representatives from PNG, Fiji and the Solomon Islands discussed the phases of the programme, deliverables and process. Country delegations shared experiences.

Integrated Housing and Social Policies, experiences from Papua New Guineas National Capital District Commission.

The Apia City Spatial plan was introduced. The aim of the plan was to address issues arising from a lack of urban planning, population growth, unique culture of Samoa, infrastructure needs, land ownership issues and finally natural hazards and economic vulnerability. Whilst the plan provided a

framework, the need for a more detailed planning framework was highlighted and the City Development Strategy would address some of the key issues that the Spatial Plan could not address.

The Honiara Youth Employment Program provides youth (14-29 year olds) with opportunities for training and internships.

Strengthening Disaster and Climate Risk Resilience planning in Urban Development in the Pacific – Doug Ramsay, NIWA

Fiji's Urban Growth Management Plan, Government of Fiji, Reijeli Taylor, Ministry of LG Fiji

Markets for Change Project, Preeya Leli, UNWOMEN



Session 4:

Priority Issues for Sustainable Urban Development in the Pacific

Part B: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience

Natural disasters are becoming more intense and frequent. Local and national government spend considerable finances on post disaster infrastructure repair works.

Ms. Allison Woodruff, Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided an overview of a project to map out flood-prone areas currently being undertaken in Nadi, Fiji. Once complete, the Nadi Town Council, property and landowners can then use the information to make more informed decisions on disaster and climate related resilience in urban areas. The software can also be used by local government to make informed decisions on climate proofing communities.

Mr. Steve Likaveke, consultant, discussed lessons learned from Honiara's flash floods in early 2014. He cited the urgent need to review policy and legislation (e.g. site planning regulations, building codes and by-laws and Land and Title Acts) and integrate them with urban planning schemes. Mr. Likaveke pointed out that the Honiara Vulnerability Assessment, which had been developed by a broad range of stakeholders and facilitated by UN-Habitat, provided the city with key information for disaster preparedness. For example the disaster operations plan of the city had been based on the Vulnerability Assessment.



(L-R) Mr. Steve Likaveke, Ms. Allison Woodruff, Asian Development Bank (ADB) & Ms. Sarah Mecartney (UN-Habitat)

Session 5:

Priority Issues for Sustainable Urban Development in the Pacific

Part C: Economic Development

Prof. Rup Singh, University of the South Pacific, discussed a working paper on 'Urbanization and Economic Growth: An Empirical Study of Pacific Island Towns,' saying it is paramount that national economies estimate forthcoming urban pressure and develop necessary infrastructure, supported by long term planning, to facilitate urbanization.

Mr. Poumuliniku Onesemo, representative of the Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, discussed the Samoa City Development Strategy (CDS) to guide the development of Apia.

Driven by Samoa's unique cultural system and taking a participatory approach, the CDS preparation process included using several learning forums at national and local village level to encourage optimal land use development to pave the way for sustainable community development. Employment, recreational needs, convenience retail, housing choice, city centre design, heritage and culture, service infrastructure, community facilities, public transport and responses to climate change have been some of the inputs towards the preparation of the CDS.



Mr. Poumuliniku Onesemo, Samoa

Session 6:
Priority Issues for Sustainable Urban Development in the Pacific

Part D: Governance

Mr. Alistair Wilkinson, UN-Habitat Consultant, defined urbanization as being about the migration of people and how they live in their urban setting. He provided an overview of how respective Pacific Island countries were making headway in preparing policy to address urbanization.

Since 2003, urbanization policies have been prepared in Papua New Guinea (2010), Samoa National Urban Policy (2013), Fiji Urban Policy Action Plan and to some extent, the Tonga PUMD and National Spatial Planning and Migration Act (2012). These are a clear indication that urbanization is becoming a national priority for governments.



Alistair Wilkinson, UN-Habitat Consultant

Urban policies are prepared in response to public concern usually triggered by changes in demographics and urbanization patterns. Vanuatu and Tuvalu have seen their national governments acknowledge urban issues as a priority and have recently conducted national consultations on urbanization. National consultations on urbanization took place in Vanuatu and Tuvalu in 2014-2015 and have been a welcome start in an environment where coordination and collaboration between national and local governments remains an obstacle to implementing legislation and policy.

Reports from Breakout Groups

In **the first breakout group** on institutional arrangements for coordinating urban planning and management and multi-stakeholder collaboration participants suggested:

That local and national authorities were the enablers for the effective implementation of legislation and policies on planning and urban development. In most Pacific Island countries, national government Ministries or agencies took the lead on planning but local authorities (where they existed) had clearly defined planning roles ranging from regulatory services to sub-division planning and in some instances, long-term strategic planning.

Coordination amongst national ministries as well as between national and local levels was seen as sub-optimal in all countries. Better systems and better enforcement were needed.

Community engagement varies and ranges from limited engagement to media outreach to significant engagement of target communities.

Financing Urban Planning and Urban Development remains a challenge as locally levied fees and taxes are not sufficient and budget support from the central level was needed.

A **second breakout group discussed** the responsibilities and expectations placed on local governments (and their mandates) with regard to sustainable urban development.

Whilst all local governments have some control, most local government representatives highlighted that their mandates were often limited when dealing with customary land issues and that various national agencies were responsible for certain planning functions and infrastructure investment decisions.

The working group participants also highlighted that limited capacities hindered the full exploitation of their mandates.

Elected representatives play varying roles (limited in Samoa, significant elsewhere) this can be positive but also challenging when these officials only support their clientele.



Participants agreed that it was critical to get stakeholders meaningfully involved from the initial stages of planning to encourage participation from all groups. Decentralization can be further strengthened to empower local governments. Coordination needs improvement. Capacity development of local authorities is critical. And building trust between institutions is important too.



Session 7:
Financing Sustainable Urban Development in the Pacific

Mr. Daniel Rove, Director Social Sector, MDPAC discussed securing financial resources to implement national urban development goals in the Solomon Islands.

Key recommendations included strengthening provincial urban planning for consistent funding allocations and the move towards developing a Solomon Islands Urban Policy. It was noted that governments need to develop an enabling environment (e.g. provincial plans) to facilitate sustainable urban development throughout the country.



Mr. Daniel Rove, Director Social Sector, MDPAC

Mr. Jude Kohlhase, ADB, provided an overview on their urban sector programmes and highlighted their growing support to an integrated approach to urban development, particularly to achieve poverty reduction and sustainable development in urban areas. ADB are also supporting programmes which include gender equality, private sector participation and capacity building. ADB proposed the following as key steps and a way forward: Education and awareness programmes to promote better understanding of the links between water, sanitation, hygiene and health; financing for improved urban services; better coordination and leadership. The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) provided an overview of their work through coordination, research and technical assistance to support infrastructure development in the Pacific. Their seven donor partners are the ADB, Australian Aid, European Union, JICA, NZ Aid, and the World Bank Group.



Mr. Jude Kohlhase, ADB

While PRIF does not directly provide funding, its donor partners contribute to PRIF's objectives to improve Pacific Island Countries' access to technical assistance, funding and improved capacity to plan and manage infrastructure.

There are 400 infrastructure activities being tracked by PRIF at present in five Pacific countries - Solomon Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga and Kiribati. PRIF noted that urban development as a sector lags behind others (transport, water and sanitation, energy, ICT).

Mr. Ted Lulu, NCDC, PNG discussed linking local plans to national plans. He stressed that funding to support some NCDC projects remained a key challenge. Developing and maintaining a strong working relationship with national leaders was not always easy as elected leaders felt they needed to respond to specific expectations from their voters, rather than the electorate as a whole.



Mr. Ted Lulu, NCDC, PNG

Session 8:

Opportunities for Regional collaboration

The PUF heard that Pacific cities and institutions are ill equipped with well-trained personnel, planning and management instruments and knowledge to cope with the increasing demographic pressure and demand for housing, land, infrastructure and overall public services.

Training, organizational capacity and human resources development are indeed part of the equation for a new urban agenda and the question remains as to whether training interventions alone are adequate to develop the required capacities to address the challenges those in cities face today. The shift in policies, approaches, strategies and organizational response depend on the successful implementation of a development strategy that gives a thorough consideration for a capacity development strategy during its early planning and preparation stages.

Discussions on regional collaboration centered the need for a Community of Practice and a Knowledge Repository for sharing of ideas and experiences in methodologies of addressing sustainable urbanization. It is key that any review of existing practices be institutionalized to become conducive to promote learning.

Session 9:

Moving Forward Together – Next Steps

The New Pacific Urban Agenda as prepared by the drafting committee was discussed and is attached as an annex to this report. Some key components are:

*“The specific needs of the Pacific in the process of urbanization must be recognized and adequately addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. **Key priorities upgrading of informal settlements and access to safe and affordable housing for all, land, provision of basic infrastructure and services, building urban resilience to climate risks and other shocks, enhancing rural-urban linkages, addressing gender inequalities, job creation and strengthening capacity for urban governance, planning, management, and data collection and analysis.** Continuing the “business as usual” approach to the development of cities and urban areas will not be enough to manage the pressures of rapid urban growth.”*

At Global level

There was significant support for a stand-alone Sustainable Urban Development Goal (SDG) for sustainable cities and human settlements that promotes inclusive, accessible, productive and environmentally sustainable and resilient urban areas, including for the following reasons:

- A stand-alone goal would help drive and orient investment by governments at all levels towards sustainable urbanization in the Pacific
- Ensuring sound sustainable urban and regional development will accelerate progress towards achieving all the SDGs
- The role of local government in planning, implementing and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs at the local level will be essential to ensure that they can be achieved across the region
- Emphasis should be placed on communicating the SDGs and raising awareness of the importance of implementation at all levels, to ensure full understanding and ownership by Governments at all levels and stakeholders.
- There was also support for engaging in the roadmap towards Habitat III and global climate change negotiations with emphasis on local resilience.

At Regional level

- The SAMOA Pathway and Framework for Pacific Regionalism should be used as entry points for enhancing policy engagement at the highest level on the importance of addressing critical Pacific urban challenges.
- The New Pacific Urban Agenda is to be anchored with the members of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROPs) and development partners to demonstrate support for the urban sector in the regional development agenda and provide assistance in implementation.
- UN-Habitat, CLGF and other regional stakeholders such as the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat should create opportunities for key urban stakeholders dealing with urban planning and management to exchange knowledge, find solutions and test innovative approaches. A review of existing knowledge management systems and the possible establishment of a knowledge repository will be explored.
- Sharing of good practices within the region has been and will continue to be important in helping Pacific cities and towns learn from others' successes and failures and take advantage of the opportunities associated with building sustainable cities.

At National and Regional Levels

- Policy-makers and urban practitioners at the local and national level should actively promote and take into account the **inter-linkages between the social, economic and environmental dimensions** of sustainable urbanization in the formulation of their policies, plans and programmes.
- **An approach based on data and local knowledge and broad participation** to urban planning and design is necessary to build ownership, enhance the strategic implementation of urban policies and to help governments and other stakeholders measure progress.
- Urban planning and management should go beyond urban boundaries to improve **rural-urban connectivity** through investments in better infrastructure for transportation and communication, developing supply chains to create market opportunities for rural producers, and balance the needs and priorities of people living in urban and rural areas.
- There is a need for wholly new approaches to planning and urban management moving away from regulation and control towards flexible planning instruments that allow authorities to address the real challenges and opportunities posed by urbanisation.
- **Effective governance, policy-making and planning** mechanisms are required to efficiently manage rapid urban growth. An integrated and multi-sectoral planning and management approach needs to be adopted at all levels.
- Mechanisms for promoting **inclusive participation** of all individuals in decision-making processes of national and local governments should be strengthened. More effort needs to be made to encourage the participation of traditional leaders, women, young people and people with disabilities in decision-making on urban development initiatives.
- Integrated and balanced approaches that engage all key stakeholders in order to **produce scalable solutions, innovations, and multi-stakeholder partnerships** to foster sustainable urbanisation will be required. To this end, every effort should be made by national governments, local authorities and development partners to ensure that this outcomes document contributes to global, regional, national and local policy-making”

The New Urban Agenda for the Pacific as endorsed will be a major input to the forthcoming post 2015 Development Agenda, and importantly, Habitat III in 2016.

Closing

The Forum was closed by Ms Karibaiti Taoaba, Regional Director, Commonwealth Local Government Forum Pacific. Ms Taoaba congratulated and thanked participants for their contributions to providing clear directions towards highlighting urbanization as a critical government issue throughout the Pacific.

She noted the continued lack of adequate resources and capacity of responsible authorities to keep up with accelerating urban growth and the risk of lost opportunities to capture the economic, social and environmental gains that improved urban management offers, challenging those present to identify and build on entry points to strategically address urbanisation in Pacific cities and towns.



*Ms. Karibaiti Taoaba, Regional Director,
Commonwealth Local Government Forum Pacific*



Fijian Delegation during the closing ceremony



List of Annexes

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2. Outcome Statement and Resolution
3. Final participants list
4. Final Programme
5. PUF/PUA Survey Results
6. CLGF Press Release (10 April) and UNH (8 April)