

CONCEPT NOTE

Effective Regional Policy Engagement for Pacific Trades Unions on Just Transition for Climate Sustainability

Supported by the project: Increased capacities of employers' and workers' Organisations to participate effectively in the development of social and labour policy

Raddison Resort, Nadi, FIJI
26-28 November 2019

Introduction

Recent disaster impacts in the Pacific have accounted for 30-60% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Tropical Cyclone Pam (2015) resulted in lost personal income of up to U\$14.8 million and lost work days amounting to 504,050.¹ Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji (2016) resulted in loss of 14,450,129 work days and lost personal income of U\$175.6m.² The total estimated effects (damage and loss) of the productive sectors were U\$418.15 for Fiji and Vt18.9m for Vanuatu. Vanuatu and Tonga are ranked number one and two in the world for most vulnerable and at risk with Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Kiribati among the top 15 nations at risk of natural disaster³

Climate change will continue to be one of, if not, the most significant challenges to the future of the Pacific SIDS and there is mounting recognition and an urgency to identify effective strategies to strengthen the adaptive capacity and resilience of the labour market and institutions to prevent livelihoods and job losses and reduce the impact on production capacities of the economy. To do this, it is imperative that employers' and workers' organizations are fully involved in influencing national, regional and international dialogues and have the capacity to take bipartite action on issues of common interest in support of national plans that contribute to the promotion of Just Transition for Decent Work and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As Pacific Governments are taking the lead on climate negotiations and high level policy decision making, it is critical for the national and regional employers and workers organizations to be able to engage and to contribute valuably to the process. High level political forums such as the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM), Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, Climate Action Pacific Partnership and UNFCC Conference of Parties (CoP25) are some of the major forums where PIPSO and SPOCTU can influence.

At the same time employers' and workers' national and organizations need the capacity to understand the critical role their organizations can play in these high-level forums, including the various channels of participation and have the technical understanding of the concepts of just transition and its potential contribution to decent work at national level and achievement of the SDG's.

The Project

This project, titled *Increased capacities of employers' and workers' organizations to participate effectively in the development of social and labour policy* aims to support the ILO's employers' and workers' organizations, to participate in and/or contribute to national SDG processes, implementation

¹ PDNA, Vanuatu (2015)

² PDNA, Fiji (2016)

³ World Risk Report 2018

and monitoring, and to promote and advocate for their "developmental" value. Particular attention will be directed to *SDG 13: Climate Action*, the project focus includes *SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions* and *SDG 8: Decent work and Economic Growth*. Project results will be shared with other Pacific SIDS to enhance the longer term sustainability of SDG achievements.

Work in four of the eleven ILO Pacific Island member States (Vanuatu, Kiribati, Fiji and Samoa) will be pursued under the project through activities to build/enhance the core capacities and systems of employers' and workers' organizations to, individually and jointly, engage in effective dialogue and to take action on issues of common interest to support the achievement of the SDGs. Gender and youth will be mainstreamed throughout the project as per ILO policy and dedicated actions taken towards addressing any identified gender gaps and to include the participation, voice and representation of women, youth including young entrepreneurs and young trade union leaders and people with disabilities.

In short the project will:

- a) Build core capacities for effective bi-partite and tripartite dialogue;
- b) Enhance information and knowledge bases and platforms;
- c) Facilitate MSMEs, particularly young entrepreneurs to prepare for and respond to climate events;
- d) Share information and knowledge across the Pacific region.

Workshop Outcome and Objectives

The Workshop is convened by the APHEDA as a follow up of the meeting in Brisbane.

The main outcome of the workshop will be an institutionally stronger Regional Workers Organisation (SPOCTU), having a better understanding of regional political engagement in the Pacific to be able to influence social and labour policy.

The specific objectives will be:

1. Developing the strategic direction and sustainability of SPOCTU;
2. Sharing knowledge of ACTRAV's policy response to Just Transition and R205 including ILO programme on disaster preparedness and recovery in the Pacific ;
3. A better understanding of the political processes of relevant high level regional and international political forums for effective participation by national and regional workers organisations

Participants

Country	Workers Organisation	Invited	Total #
Fiji	FTUC	General Secretary	1
Samoa	SWC	President	1
Kiribati	KTUC	President	1
Vanuatu	VCTU	General Secretary	1
Solomon Islands	SICTU	President	1
Cook Islands	CIWU	President	1
PNG	PNGCTU	TBC	1
Tuvalu	TWU	TBC	1
Tonga/SPOCTU	PSA	General Secretary	1
SPOCTU	FTUC	Interim President	1
Australia	ACTU	TBC	1
New Zealand	NZCTU	TBC	1
New Zealand	Union AID NZ	TBC	1

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Resource Persons/Support Staff

Country	Organisation	Name	Total #
Fiji	ILO	Edward, Milika, Gagan <i>*Gagan for opening only/day 1</i>	1
	PIFS	Penisoni Naupoto <i>*day 2 only</i>	1
	CAPP	Chritine Fung <i>*day 2 only</i>	1
Bangkok	ILO	Ravi	1
Australia	APHEDA	Jill	1
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