



Key Messages and Next Steps

Fifth Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and Capacity Building
Workshop for Pacific SIDS
25-26 November 2021



Opening Session

Opening Session

- Pacific small island developing States (PSIDS) are currently lagging on all 17 SDGs
- PSIDS have taken on an additional US\$1.6 billion in debt as a result of COVID-19 and tourism has collapsed
- COVID-19 pandemic has increased hardships of women and girls and those in the most vulnerable and those furthest behind
- COVID-19 should not undermine the implementation towards SDGs but reinforces the need to deliver on the SDGs by 2030
- The recovery from COVID-19 pandemic was forcing PSIDs to rethink the business-as-usual model.

Opening Session

- Need to mobilise all resources to keep the 1.5°C target alive and enhance adaptation and resilience.
- Higher climate ambition needed to accelerate the recovery process.
- The climate change response and recovery needed collective actions by all PSIDS
- Businesses need to align to the SDGs, with incentives for MSMEs in particular
- We need solutions to move forward – and targeted means of implementation
- SDG data limitations plague PSIDS, and specific and sustained efforts are needed.



Session One

Climate Change Disaster Risk and Resilience

Session One

- PSIDS stand out with some of the highest estimated losses as percentage of their GDP.
- Pacific priorities at COP26 were: Climate Ambition; Climate Finance; Loss & Damage; Environment Integrity; Adaptation; Oceans and Capacity Building & Technology.
- Science informs decision-making, ethics and morality hold lessons for Climate Change action.
- Adaptation – pledge from developed countries to at least double adaptation finance between 2019 – 2025.
- Finance – capitalisation of USD100B pledge by 2023 remains pending.
- Oceans- landed in the UNFCCC space where SBSTA chair to annual dialogue beginning 2022 to strengthen Ocean based action
- Loss and Damage - 2 year Glasgow Dialogue to discuss the operationalising of L&D.

Session One

- Climate displacement is our current reality - urgent action and financing was needed to address the issue.
- Urgent need to decarbonise shipping sector by 2030. Support needed for Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership
- Strong emphasis needs to put on gender in COP27 outcomes
- Promote role of communities local context and knowledge, along with all stakeholders in effective action on climate change across the Pacific region
- Harness international collaboration on innovative climate action, including technological advancement in PSIDS.



Session Two

Inclusive Recovery through Health and Social Protection Systems

Session Two

- Social protection coverage low in the Asia-Pacific with less than half of the region's population covered by at least one scheme.
- Pacific governments spend, on average, less than 2% of GDP on social protection, and even less (0.5%) on disability and related measures, which limits levels of coverage and effectiveness
- COVID-19 funding came at the expense of other health services priorities and recovery
- Climate change framed as a public health issue at COP26 and health initiatives also need to embed environment to build a greener and more inclusive system.

Session Two

- ESCAP is committed to the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, while further contextualizing required in the Pacific
- Economic development and recovery should not take priority over social needs, and social protection should have an extensive scope covering livelihoods, education, informal sector
- Investing in social protection returns critical well-fare gains and productivity
- Recovery requires establishment of extensive social protection schemes that are gender, disability and disaster responsive and encompass the livelihoods, education and informal sector



Session Three

Regional Cooperation for Accelerating Climate-Smart Trade and Sustainable Energy Transition

Session Three

- Pacific intra-regional trade is still limited, while trade costs are high. There is scope for strengthening regional trade cooperation and integration, particularly in the context of COVID-19 recovery measures.
- Pacific trade regulations and border processes require simplification
- Liberalize trade in climate-smart and other environmental goods and services
- Stimulate the Pacific economic recovery strategy through leveraging trade priorities, while reaffirming Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy, with a focus on Regional E-Commerce Strategy and Roadmap
- Scale up work on cross-border paperless trade framework and trade facilitation framework, while accelerating trade digitalization
- Modernize PICTA in facilitating intra-regional trade and assess the Pacific labour mobility arrangements.

Session Three

- Low human and institutional capacity to undertake an integrated energy policy and planning perspective
- Under-utilization of regional cooperation to facilitate the needed energy transition
- Promote clean energy solutions, while supporting the delivery of SDG 7 roadmaps and national energy policies and legislation
- Leverage energy sector financing, sustainable electric power development, low-carbon transport and energy efficiency.
- Need to build and strengthen partnerships with institutions and initiatives at all levels - work with private sector
- Build sustainable regional solutions and explore community-based solutions in light of COVID-19 and climate change risks in the Pacific



Session Four

Leveraging Climate and Disaster Risk Finance

Session Four

- Climate finance for Pacific SIDS are far too small compared to the financial needs to address climate emergency and disaster risk. Only 1.9% have benefited SIDS; only 0.28% benefited PSIDS.
- Currently bigger PSIDS were able to access financing mostly from multi-lateral sources, smaller PSIDS from bilateral sources.
- Countries have been developing good climate finance policies but finding it hard to translate those policies to actual implementable programmes due to lack of finance, technology transfer and capacity constraints.
- Countries needed more direct access to climate finance, innovative finance, and more flexibility in using different finance modalities and national systems
- Climate finance assistance is not benefiting adequately the communities and vulnerable groups.
- Stakeholder participation in decision making could make climate finance truly transformative.

Session Four

- A Task Force (Fiji as co-chair) on access to climate finance established at COP26
- Bilateral, and other development partner sources of disaster recovery financing and climate financing remain important for PSIDS.
- Strengthening national and sector planning, and public financial management systems remain important prerequisites for improving access to, and management of, increased financing flows
- Pacific resilience facility (PRF) may offer an option to narrow the gap of access to climate finance and provide a fit for purpose solution for PSIDS
- Ongoing collaboration between ESCAP and PIFS to prepare a feasibility study on debt-for-climate swaps, and an application of such an instrument in PSIDS
- A proposed Regional Ministerial Debt conference, to be hosted by PIFS and ESCAP in 2022, will discuss debt management issues, and innovative solutions for PSIDS



Session Five

Capacity Building Workshop

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in
the Pacific

Session Five

- There has been improvement in data availability in last 2 years – 26 to 38 indicators having available data
- Progress: Goal 4 (Education) – moderate; Goal 5 (Gender) – minimal; Goal 14 (Oceans) – minimal to good; Goal 15 (Land) – moderate.
- Need for statistical surveys to strengthen information and data to inform SDG implementation progress, including gender and disability statistics
- Reporting against the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development is an example of collaboration between all stakeholders (Member States, CROP, UN System, Development Partners, NSA), strengthening relationships and ensuring a coordinated approach
- Context specific clarification needs to accompany regional progress assessments, especially in indicators that are regressing

Session Five

- Follow up and review of the VNRs need to focus on: whole of society approach; need for integrated planning and budgeting; strengthening coordination and institutional arrangements and M&E system.
- Institutionalizing stakeholder engagement to support SDG implementation is critical. Strengthen effort towards building partnerships with civil society, private sector, local governments, youth and gender focused groups, experts and other stakeholders.
- Undertake disaggregated data work to better understand where expenditure is allocated in the national budgets
- Assist in preparation of VNR reports and follow-up processes to improve the implementation of national development and SDG priorities and sequencing.



Session Six

Consultation on the 2022 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report

Session Six

- The key messages from the PFSD to inform the 2022 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report, have been recognized Session 6. The breakout group rapporteurs have aptly captured the key takeaways.
- Detail inputs will be considered in the final report.
- A draft report will be provided to PFSD participants for review in due course.