



CLGF PACIFIC URBAN FORUM PREPARATORY WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji Islands
11th to 13th December 2018**

WORKSHOP REPORT AND OUTCOMES

Overview

The purpose of this workshop was for Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Pacific members to prepare for the Fifth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF) to be held from 13th to 15th May, 2019. This involved developing a collective understanding of the issues and processes relating to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in the Pacific region, particularly relating to the role of local government. The specific aims were to:

1. Inform/update participants on key elements/outcomes of the 2015 Pacific Urban Forum, 2016, namely the Pacific Urban Agenda (PUA), the (global) NUA, and wider Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework – *‘what has been happening?’*
2. Identify and discuss national urban priorities for local government across the region – *‘what is the state of play of all things urban in the region?’* since the 2015 Pacific Urban Forum
3. Outline a Regional Framework Plan to be used in the implementation of a revised PUA in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) across 2019-2039 – *‘what are the regional priorities and how does the region take the urban agenda forward?’*

Senior national and local government officials from ten PICs – Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu – participated in the workshop, together with representatives of development partners, along with CLGF, active in the sector - UNDP, PRRP, UN ESCAP, UN Habitat, Compass and EAROPH. Total participation was 41 and a full list of attendees is attached to this report.

The event was organized by the CLGF Pacific Project with the valuable assistance of Dr Paul Jones from the University of Sydney, Australia and Dr Luke Kiddle from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The workshop was funded primarily by the European Union under the Framework Partnership Agreement with CLGF, together with additional financial support from UN ESCAP. The workshop participants expressed their gratitude to the EU and UN ESCAP for this support.

The workshop aimed to build from the 2015 PUA as adopted, particularly ensuring, recognizing and elevating the valuable role of local government as a key stakeholder in the management of the urbanisation process. Participants looked at gaining greater support, recognition, and traction in the urbanisation process through urban ‘champions’, political level buy-in and developing urban policies. Key urbanisation concepts that stakeholders are being asked to embrace such as resilience, inclusion and ‘leaving no-one behind’, security,

culture, diversity, global versus local, rights and sustainability underpinned the dialogue and discussion on the way forward.

Following a review of the keys aspects of the SDGs, the NUA and 2015 PUA, the workshop identified the main challenges and opportunities around urbanisation and prioritization of actions relevant to local government. The latter were to be used as a basis to move towards sustainable, safe, resilient and inclusive human settlements in the region. In moving towards these outcomes, it was clear that local government is a key stakeholder and should take this responsibility seriously.

The workshop also benefited from presentations around the SDGs, NUA and related initiatives by each of the development partners and friends of the Pacific participating in the meeting. Clear synergies were identified and the role of regional agencies such as PIFS, UN ESCAP, CLGF, UNDP and UN Habitat taken into account in the workshop deliberations.

Participants strongly emphasized the value of collaborating as a regional network of local government practitioners and the key role of CLGF Pacific in facilitating this. The need to work with other development partners and regional organisations, particularly the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in promoting local government's place in the PUA was also identified as critical to maximizing outcomes.

Opening

In opening the meeting Mrs. Karibaiti Taoaba, Regional Director CLGF Pacific, emphasized the opportunity this event brings to working together as a regional collaboration of Pacific local government to ensure the voice of local government is heard at the 2019 PUF. Mrs. Taoaba also reinforced the aims of the workshop and the expectation of clear outcomes that can be taken to the 2019 PUF deliberations.

In welcoming regional local government colleagues and friends to Nadi, Mr. Robin Ali, the Special Administrator Nadi Town Council, spoke about the common challenges around effectively managing growing towns and cities in the Pacific region. He emphasized the importance of local government in addressing these challenges and seizing on opportunities that urbanisation brings, citing the example of Nadi, and the need for long term planning. Mr. Ali also stated the important role of secondary cities and towns, such as Nadi in the Fiji context. These towns and cities are often growing relatively faster than major centres and have urgent infrastructure and investment needs. However, Mr. Ali also underscored that secondary towns are smaller and closer to the impacts of urbanisation and therefore have the potential to be better placed at managing the impacts of rapid urban growth and being creative in finding solutions.

In his address, the Chief Guest Mr. Joshua Wycliffe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, highlighted that cities are not the same; they have unique advantages and challenges and may take different paths to achieving the SDGs. In that regard it is critical to play to our respective strengths. He also reminded participants of the importance of incorporating informality into city and town planning. It is of course necessary to plan for affluence and prosperity, but also for informality recognizing the linkage of people with their locally placed 'roots'. Planning should also include providing for the basic needs of informal and squatter settlements, such as water, sanitation and health services which are basic human rights as expressed in the NUA. Before declaring the workshop opened, Mr. Wycliffe stressed the importance of a participatory and inclusive approach to ensure nobody is 'left behind'.

Background - The Pacific Urban Agenda (PUA)

The first PUF was held in 2003 and subsequently in 2007, 2011 and 2015. The PUA emerged from the first event as a major regional urban outcome and has been enriched in the successive fora. Development of the PUA has been a collaborative process by a range of partner organisations including UN ESCAP, CLGF, PIFS and UN Habitat working to convene and support local governments and other stakeholders focused on urbanisation in the region. The PUA is based on the acceptance of the reality of continued urbanisation in the Pacific and encourages appropriate attention and action. It defines the regional priorities on urbanisation, the latest from the 2015 PUF being:

- **Social Equity** is to be enhanced – proper town and city planning; affordable housing; informal settlement upgrading; equitable access to basic services. Pro-poor urban planning, policies and legal framework. Emphasis on inclusiveness and participatory consultation.
- **Environment, Resilience and Urbanisation** – The social, economic and environmental impacts of natural hazards and climate change on PICs and communities to be factored in as an important part of urban planning, strategies and plans.
- **Harnessing the urban economy** – Cities to be recognized and used as drivers of national economic development and the informal sector should be recognized as one of the contributing factors to economic growth in most countries. Greater engagement with the private sector to facilitate more investment opportunities that can enhance the delivery of basic services and increase mobilization of adequate resources.
- **Governance is to be strengthened** – To make sure that all countries have urban/urbanisation policies and legislation so that the various sectors and individuals could work together in a more coordinated effort to address the challenges that most countries are experiencing because of urbanisation.

The PUA is most closely associated with embracing SDG 11 – ‘*make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*’. However it also has clear linkages to SDG 1 (end poverty), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 16 (strong institutions and governance) and SDG 17 (global partnership for the goals).

The 2015 PUA process also fed into the NUA preparations, later endorsed by the international community at the 3rd United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (HABITAT III) in Quito in October, 2016. The vision of the NUA is “*cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all*”. The NUA recognises that cities must be part of the solution to sustainable economic development. The role for local government in the NUA was recognised, with recommendations for strengthening capacity, encouragement of appropriate regulatory frameworks, partnering with communities and involvement in decision making in managing urbanisation strongly highlighted. .

The PUA is also relevant with other regional and global frameworks including the Pacific Plan (2005), Rio+20 (2012), the SAMOA Pathway (2014), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), the Sendai Framework (2015), the Paris Agreement (2015), Oceans Pathway COP23 (2017), the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (PIFS, 2016) and the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022.

Challenges and Opportunities of Urbanisation

Participants identified a range of challenges they face around managing urbanisation at country level, together with the opportunities that well-managed urbanisation may bring. It was agreed that in many cases factors that present challenges can also deliver opportunities. The issues raised were summarized as:

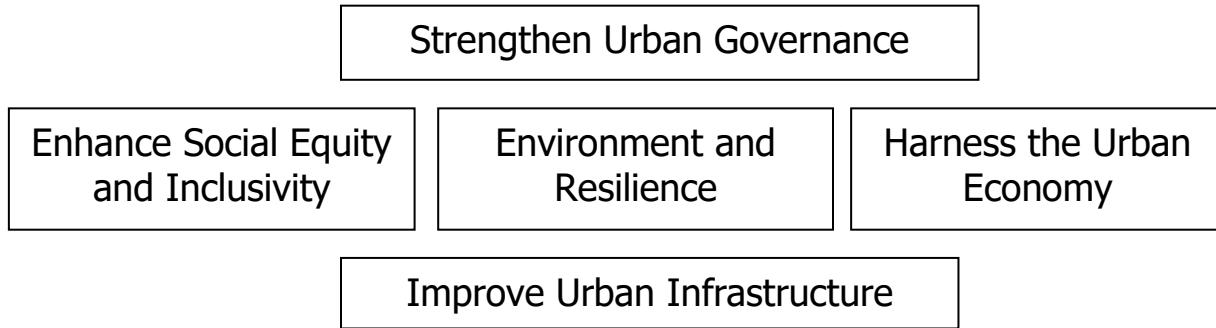
- Complexity of urban issues
 - Land tenure
 - Informal settlements
 - Rural – urban migration
- Policy frameworks to support the management of urban growth
- Urban areas as places of economic activity, jobs and local economic empowerment
- Urban governance – structures, processes, legal frameworks, resources, different modes of
- Capacity constraints
- Prioritizing managing urbanisation in face of climate change and sea level rise
- Environmental and waste management
- Urban infrastructure – traffic management, transport, facilities
- Expansion of town boundaries
- Service delivery – capacity, costs and improvements
- Development of partner support – especially linked to climate change and impacts on urban centres
- Security
- Geographical factors:
 - remoteness
 - land availability
- Wellbeing
- Creativity & Innovation:
 - Sustainable and affordable housing
 - Infrastructure
 - Public private partnerships
 - Policy and legislation
 - Sister city technical partnerships
 - Informal economy
 - Capacity building.

When categorizing these issues, it was clear they generally fitted well into the regional priorities and focus areas from the 2015 PUF, with the addition of Urban Infrastructure:

1. Enhancing social equity
2. Focus on environment and resilience
3. Harnessing the urban economy
4. Strengthening urban governance

Given the approach of the workshop to constructively build on the outcomes of the 2015 PUF, it was agreed these pillars will underpin the key actions. Effective urban governance was considered the overarching *'entry point'* or *'engine room'*, the foundation prerequisite underpinning all actions by local government – *'get governance right and all things will flow'*. Investments in urban infrastructure, both physical and social, were also considered critical as a cross-cutting basis for other actions.

Cities for All



PUA Strategic Framework for Local Government – Key Action Areas

A workshop exercise to identify the key priority actions to address the issues associated with each pillar revealed a range of proposed actions for each pillar. It was clear from this exercise that actions within the grouping 'Strengthen Urban Governance' were the highest priority, given the importance of this pillar as the foundation for all others. Harness the urban economy initiatives was the second highest priority followed by those associated with Environment and Resilience and Enhance Social Equity and Inclusiveness groupings. Top priority actions for local government included:

1. *Updating policy and legislative framework (Strengthen Urban Governance/Enhance Social Equity & Inclusiveness)* – it is critical that local government has an appropriate legal basis and policy environment within which to take actions. Or in other words the need get the basics in order first. Many laws and regulations are outdated and need to be modernized to accommodate the needs of today. Examples include recognizing informality and dealing with housing and land issues in contextual settings. Development of national urban policies, where these do not already exist, should be encouraged as this will help embed management of urban growth and its related impacts and opportunities on national agendas.
2. *Strengthen institutional capacity and build quality leadership (Strengthen Urban Governance)* – a component of the foundations for good local governance and includes relevant local ordinances and by-laws as well as effective management, accountability and stable political leadership. There is need for regular training of local government officials and orientation of elected and appointed political local leaders. Opportunities for sister city technical twinning and support for capacity building by regional organisations and development partners should be explored.
3. *Provide effective services (Harness the Urban Economy)* – there is a clear responsibility of local government in creating the right enabling environment for local economic development, including social and environmental components. Initiatives such as sister city technical twinning (both north/south and south/south) and City Partnerships Programmes could be considered, as well as other creative ways of delivering services, such as by using smart technology, public/private partnerships and learning from regional and international good practice. Local government associations also provide opportunities for learning through networking. Discussions also identified that providing effective services also was important for other groupings – especially 'Environment and Resilience' and 'Enhance Social Equity and Inclusiveness'.

4. *Improve land use planning/policy (Environment and Resilience)* – particularly as land supply is limited in many countries and as cities and towns grow with inadequate space for expansion ('lock-in'), effective land use planning is critical. Land is also directly linked to heritage and culture, and is part of the way people live in the region. As such, applying the Pacific way of land management is essential. Planning for informal settlements and their impacts is also essential as these are now a permanent feature of Pacific urban growth. The scope for high rise buildings (applying strata title systems), reclaiming land from the sea and different ways of looking at land tenure and could be considered in future land use planning.
5. *Improve urban water supply (Environment and Resilience/Urban Infrastructure)* – supply of clean water is one of the SDGs and is essential for well-managed human settlements, as is sanitation and effective waste management. The latter are key components of basic urban infrastructure and is often lacking in many countries and needs urgent capital and recurrent investment. Urban water supply is in some countries is the responsibility of central government, and local government in others.
6. *Improve waste management (Environment and Resilience/Urban Infrastructure)* – people want to live in a clean urban environment and waste management is critical to this. Despite some excellent work already done around opportunities for recycling and improved disposal methods, environmentally sound waste management remains a major challenge for most urban centres. Waste disposal facilities in several countries are reaching capacity, and with the scarcity of available land, alternatives are limited. Quantities of industrial and hazardous waste are also increasing requiring appropriate, but non-traditional, methods of responsible disposal. New technology in waste disposal suitable to the Pacific needs to be continually explored.
7. *Simplify business licencing processes (Harness the Urban Economy)* – this also relates to local governance. Currently, the statutory requirements for starting and operating a business are complex, time consuming, and need reform. This applies to both formal and informal businesses. A 'one stop shop' facility should be looked into, particularly for informal traders. However substantial businesses may still require a more detailed process, such as environmental assessment. As such, licencing processes need to be 'fit for purpose'. Better use of technology could also be considered, as well as improved coordination of other approval agencies where required.
8. *Responding to climate change (Environment and Resilience)* - climate change is real and having significant impacts on all PICs in particular those experiencing sea level rise, effects on groundwater and arable land, migration and changing weather patterns. In countries such as Tuvalu and Kiribati the first priority is survival of the islands in the face of climate change impacts. Significant assistance is being provided but funding requirements are often complex requiring increased capacity in proposal preparation. Local Government is the closest level of government to the communities who are often the first to be affected by climate change. In this context, it is imperative they understand more about climate change and its impact. Such a shift may assist the numerous efforts being undertaken at national, regional and international. Urban also needs to be more 'central' in proposals for climate change mitigation.
9. *Strengthening engagement with key local government stakeholders (Strengthen Urban Governance)* – this includes strengthening linkages between local and central governments (particularly on urbanisation), local government and traditional structures and local government community engagement and partnership. Collaborations with civil society particularly around environmental, social, sporting, tourism, local economic development and leveraging off traditional/cultural strengths can add

significant value and should be promoted. Local government may need to take the initiative in developing the collaborations sought.

10. *Facilitating the informal sector (Harness the Urban Economy)* – research has shown the informal sector is a significant contributor to the local economy (e.g. 20% of GDP in PNG), an available employment option for many people and major provider of goods and services in the Pacific. It is part of building a livable and vibrant Pacific city or town. Local government needs to get to know the informal sector, and strong leadership is needed. Significant opportunities exist in the region for expanding the informal economy, and local government is best placed to encourage, promote and properly manage and regulate this process. Informal trading is often a pathway to economic empowerment, to the formal sector small business and beyond, and should be encouraged, potentially via a policy on local economic development and the informal sector. Gender and cultural dimensions, and relationships with the formal economy, will also need to be included, as is recognition of differences. As in some Pacific countries, local government has not been directly involved in promoting the informal sector, guidelines on how local government can support the informal economy whilst addressing local government ‘public interest’ issues is required.

It was agreed that local government has some role in all these major priorities. However these will be dealt with in different ways and in different country contexts. For example, in several countries the central government builds or funds infrastructure and hands over the assets to local government to maintain, whereas in larger cities the local authority constructs and maintains these economic assets.

Regional Approach

Workshop participants noted that *‘we need to come together as a region’* when implementing local government priorities as a *‘coordinated local to regional action is needed to harness the development advantages of cities’*. In this setting, a regional approach includes all the major stakeholders committing to achieving a reinvigorated PUA with local government a central and pivotal player.

As was noted that from the recent PIFS/Australian National University workshop on the regional dimensions of urbanisation, regional and international networks collaborating together were considered key to success. Regional agencies have the power to support urban policy frameworks, support leadership and learning. However, boosting policy reach and impact requires a regional approach capable of going beyond the technical and dealing with the political where will and sustained commitment is required. A regional approach can also support policy innovation and the application of international best practices to Pacific contexts. In addition, the Pacific has insights to offer and could play a greater role in shaping regional and international agenda, as it has done for climate change and oceans governance. In this context, a key opportunity exists at the 2019 PUF to embrace a “coalition of the willing” committed to managing urbanisation cognisant of regional and global frameworks with local government a major player in facilitating change.

The critical importance of support from PIFS to promoting the PUA and local government’s role was emphasized and agreed that the outcomes of this workshop need to be formally submitted to PIFS. Countries also need to engage in dialogue with PIFS through their formal country mechanisms.

Outcomes and Way Forward

Consideration was given to the way forward in preparing for the PUF in May 2019, the objectives of which are to:

1. Update the Pacific New Urban Agenda in light of Habitat III outcomes and new and emerging issues
2. Develop an Action Plan for implementation
3. Seek to institutionally anchor the Pacific New Urban Agenda
4. Seek to strengthen collaboration and partnerships amongst stakeholders
5. Facilitate capacity development and shared learning opportunities

Participants agreed that in preparation for the PUF in May 2019, each country delegation will identify:

1. National urbanisation priorities as linked to the pillars identified at the workshop and through wider consultation.
2. PUF champions at a national level to drive the PUA at national and regional level
3. Advocacy required at the national and regional level
4. Any research and evidence base required to support focus areas and priorities at national level
5. Resources and other assistance required to implement the 2019 PUA

Further information on any other preparatory work for the PUA will be advised to members as it comes to hand from the PUF organizing committee.

Outcomes Summary

Participants at the workshop agreed as follows:

1. Everyone has 'rights to the city' – by having a right, people can share in decision-making and contribute to 'shaping' the Pacific town and city at different levels.
2. Urbanisation should be considered as an opportunity for creativity and innovation, particularly around fostering local economic development.
3. Local government is the key to well managed urban growth and development, being a major stakeholder and inclusive partner in managing urbanisation and the necessary responses
4. Local government must play to its strengths and use its powers to aim for robust systems and quality service delivery to support inclusive urbanisation opportunities, recognizing traditional social networks, governance arrangements and culture.
5. Regional priorities as listed in this report must be taken forward to the 2019 PUA, together with national priorities as appropriate. These to be supported with research or evidence base as available. CLGF to assist if required.
6. Fiji, as host country of the 2019 PUF, and PNG as having the largest urban centre in the region, be asked to take a lead advocacy role at the 2019 PUF.
7. The outcomes from this workshop be taken forward through each national government's processes where appropriate, such as cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs or similar, for endorsement and submitted to PIFS (Forum Officials level meeting in the first instance).
8. Advocacy for local government at the 2019 PUF and its central role in urbanisation generally be undertaken using available mechanisms such as social media, a desk/gallery at the PUF, briefing papers and CLGF's global networks.
9. Where advocacy of outcomes beyond the national level is required, where feasible, representatives from the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs be invited to similar meetings in future. The aim is to promote understanding of the key issues and buy-in from Foreign Affairs officials to facilitate advocacy, as this is where regional and international activities are coordinated.

10. Consideration be given to the annual meeting of Pacific Ministers responsible for local government and Mayors being revived.
11. Collaboration between local governments at regional level be improved for sharing of learning and adding value. Also with development partners working in the sub-national sector. CLGF Pacific office to help facilitate this.
12. A regional plan for mobilizing resources for implementation of priority actions as agreed at the 2019 PUF be prepared, with CLGF to coordinate.
13. The CLGF Pacific programme be strengthened to support members countries collaboration and capacity development including a key role in 2019 PUA implementation and coordination.

Closing

In closing the workshop, Mrs. Karibaiti Taoaba, Regional Director CLGF Pacific Project thanked participants for their enthusiastic and valuable inputs to the outcomes of the workshop, together with Dr Luke Kiddle for his excellent facilitation and professional advice, and regional development partners for their contributions.

Mrs. Taoaba particularly identified the fact that representatives from the ten participating countries have worked together as Pacific local government and are prepared to act as one strong voice when it comes to urbanisation and managing its consequences and impacts.

On an optimistic note, Mrs. Taoaba noted that regional local government will from time to time speak with one united voice and the 2019 PUF is a well-timed opportunity to do this, particularly when a range of different stakeholders push their particular priorities anchored in addressing urbanisation. Local government should also continue to influence national systems to ensure the voice of the grassroots is heard

Mrs. Taoaba commended the continuing support of CLGF to member countries local government capacity needs, particularly when working together collectively at the regional level.

On behalf of the workshop participants, Mr. Kenneth Atasoa, Deputy City Manager (Regulatory Services), National Capital District Commission, PNG, passed a vote of thanks to the CLGF Regional Director and her colleagues, Dr Kiddle and development partners for a well-run and effective workshop, resulting in tangible outcomes and way forward for the 2019 PUA.

Presentations by Development Partners

Development partners working in the sub-national government sector and friends of the Pacific present at the workshop were asked to make a brief presentation on their work, particularly around implementation of the SDGs and the NUA. These presentations revealed opportunities for synergy and partnership as we move forward with the SDGs and PUA.

Compass Housing

Mr Ben Wong, Secretary Global Home Network, advised that Compass is an Australian based NGO providing housing tenancy and property management services. They have over 30 years' experience in delivering secure and affordable housing as well as housing products for disadvantaged people who find it hard to source affordable and suitable housing. Compass is accredited with UN Habitat and has been operating in New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand, but is now looking to expand internationally, particularly in the Pacific. Compass is interested in wide ranging dialogue, and working, with potential partners in its international expansion strategy. Compass is also a partner in the 2019 PUF. Mr Wong emphasised the importance of having a national affordable housing policy and looking at different ways of providing housing. More information: <https://www.compasshousing.org/>

Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH)

Dr Jane Stanley, Vice President EAROPH Australia explained that as a non- governmental multi-sectorial organisation EAROPH promotes a better understanding of human settlements and encourages excellence in planning, development and management to improve the quality of life and sustainability of human settlements. It encompassing the private, public and academic sector and was established to foster the exchange of insights and experiences among countries in Australasia region. EAROPH does not have a Pacific chapter but is looking to establish one over time. EAROPH is accredited to UN ESCAP and UN Habitat and is involved in implementing the NUA.

Dr Stanley advised that EAROPH has produced a range of policy papers and knowledge products around local economic development, with a focus on the informal sector. She briefly described a survey recently undertaken on the informal economy in PNG which revealed the extent of the contribution to GDP, the growth of the sector and its potential. Dr Stanley also informed on the City Partnerships Programme and the international facility for sustainable development, a pool of donor funds for partnership projects. A proposal for a Pacific project around capacity building in the informal sector has been submitted under this facility. CLGF is also a partner in the City Partnerships initiative. Further information: www.earoph.org/

UN Habitat

Ms. Silvia Gallo, Urban Climate Resilience Team Leader based in Suva, updated the gathering on UN Habitat's current focus areas and work, as follows:

At the global level:

- The tenth World Urban Forum (WUF10) will be held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 13 February 2020. Focus will be on advancing implementation of the NUA and urban dimensions of the SDGs. Regional and sub-regional frameworks will be key and culture, inclusiveness, gender and innovation will central to the programme.
- The World Urban Campaign (WUC), which is an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness about positive urban change in order to achieve green, productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and well planned cities. Nearly 200 partner organizations from around the world have committed to the campaign. Main activities

include 'The City We Need' campaign platform, local and thematic campaigns around positive urban solutions and creating space for exchange of knowledge and innovations promoting sustainable urbanisation. The WUC will underpin preparation for PUF5 and WUF10. Further information: www.worldurbancampaign.org

At the regional level:

- UN Habitat is the lead partner in the 2019 PUF, which will provide an inclusive and multi-stakeholder platform for review of progress towards the Pacific New Urban Agenda and for exchange and dialogue for further action planning. Other partners include CLGF, UN ESCAP, PIFS, ADB, Compass Housing, among others.
- The Adaptation Fund Resilient Informal Settlements Project, which works in 16 communities in 4 urban centres in Fiji and five settlements in Honiara. 1,249 households comprising 6,242 persons are involved in Fiji and 1,432 households comprising 9,374 persons in Honiara.
- Also in Fiji and Solomon Islands, the EU-funded Participatory Slum Upgrading Project (PUSP) aims to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade informal settlements.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

Ms. Ly Ngo from the Suva office advised that UN ESCAP is one of five regional Commissions established to encourage economic cooperation among its member states. Programmatic focus areas include contextualising policy to the Pacific context, with participatory approaches to solid waste management being an example.

In respect to urbanisation, the UN ESCAP Ocean Cities programme is a climate-smart, ocean centred, integrated approach for resilient urban development. It recognizes that oceans bind the Pacific region; they are where landscapes and seascapes meet and merge. Ocean Cities links into the regional 'Blue Pacific' concept which aims to capture the collective potential of the region's shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean and is based on an explicit recognition of shared ocean identity, geography and resources. It also ties into the Framework for Resilient Development for the Pacific and other relevant international Frameworks.

Ocean Cities focuses on nature-based solutions, or 're-naturing urbanisation', through actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems and address societal challenges adaptively and effectively. Solutions are inspired or copied from nature and have potentially significant benefits. Examples include rehabilitating mangroves to protect coastlines and biodiversity; combining natural and engineered infrastructure for water management; urban agroforestry to address challenges of land tenure, health, food security and unemployment; established educational managed marine areas to encourage ownership by young people; and, constructing wetlands and restoring forest landscapes to support these ecosystems and conserve services they provide.

Integrated solutions is a the second key focus of Ocean Cities, aiming to achieve social, economic and environmental benefits; understand the links between cities and ecosystems, and between landscapes and seascapes; prioritise protection over restoration in integrated urban planning and land use management; engage and build partnerships with the private sector; and, provide awareness raising, educate youth and engage communities as active development partners.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Catrina Rowe, SDG Engagement Specialist, Pacific SDG Partnership and Rebecca McNaught, Sub-national Resilient Development Advisor, Pacific Risk Resilience Programme, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji presented on the SDGs and the Urban Agenda: Progress, Approaches and Tools.

It was noted that over 5 years, or 26%, of the 20 year cycle of the SDGs has now passed by. A good start has been made but we need to increase the pace of progress. Knowledge, tools and willingness to achieve the goals are needed in the region. Increasing vulnerabilities through inequalities and limited access to basic infrastructure and services are major challenges. SDG Progress Wheels indicate varied progress, with difficulties existing in measuring goals around oceans and climate goals, and some targets under SDG 11. Opportunities however exist for accelerating development through Pacific knowhow, our ability to adapt to changing situations, significant biodiversity and oceanic resources, and ability to work as a Blue Pacific collective.

The presentation also identified the need to safeguard SDG implementation through disaster response and preparedness, recovery and reconstruction (building back better), effective climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects, and risk-informed development. Effective leadership, capacity and knowledge are needed, plus mechanisms such as sound legal and policy frameworks, institutional arrangements and partnerships. Finance, planning and deliverables underpin SDG success. Risk-informing development decisions by combining elements and taking into account various factors upfront is a necessary prerequisite for success projects, so we don't 'pay twice'.

The UNDP '*Solevaka*' initiative was also introduced. This is an online platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, discussion, consultation and collaboration for all Pacific Island countries and territories to help achieve the SDGs by 2030. *Solevaka* is a custom-designed digital hub for Pacific development professionals as an information repository and data portal, to facilitate consultation, creating connections between people and providing fit for purpose tools and resources. Registration of interest can be made at info@solevaka.org

Further information can be found in copies of partners' presentations and other background information distributed to participants at the workshop.

CLGF PACIFIC URBAN FORUM PREPARATORY WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

List of Participants

Country/ Agency	Name	Designation	Organisation/Department
COOK ISLANDS	Mr Otheniel TANGIANAU	Director, Pa Enea Division	Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs
	Ms Ngamata Imelda NAPARA	Mayor	Manihiki Island Government
	Mr Tekura Moeroa BISHOP	Mayor	Aitutaki Local Government
	Mr Tuaine Patira NGAMETUA	Mayor	Mitiaro Local Government
FIJI ISLANDS	Mr Azam KHAN	Director, Local Government	Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Community Development
	Mr Robin ALI	Special Administrator	Nadi Town Council
	Mr Tulse RAM	Town Clerk/CEO	Sigatoka Town Council
	Mr Jone NAKAUVADRA	Town Clerk/CEO	Lautoka City Council
	Mr Dip NARAYAN	Town Clerk/CEO	Ba Town Council
	Ms Reijeli SIVO	Senior Admin Officer, Department of Local Government	Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Community Development
KIRIBATI	Ms Terengaiti AWERIKA	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Internal Affairs
	Ms Regina ROTITAAKE	Urban Management Officer, Local Government Division	Ministry of Internal Affairs
	Mr Raurenti TOATU	Mayor	Betio Town Council
	Mr Rikiau TAKEKE	Executive Officer	Kiribati Local Government Association
MARSHALL ISLANDS	Mr Yoland JURELANG	Chief, Local Government Division	Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Mr Joe WARUS	A/Deputy Secretary – Performance, Monitoring & improvement	Department of Provincial & Local Government Affairs
	Mr Larson THOMAS	Director, Local Government	Department of Provincial & Local Government Affairs
	Mr Kenneth ATASOA	Deputy City Manager – Regulatory Services	National Capital District Commission
	Mr Lulu TED	Deputy City Manager – Community & Social Services	National Capital District Commission

SAMOA	Mr Tavita A TUISILA	Village Mayor/ Representative	Vaala Village Council
SOLOMON ISLANDS	Mr Charles KELLY	City Clerk	Honiara City Council
	Ms Nancy JOLO	Director Corporate Services	Honiara City Council
	Ms Grace FAFALE	Deputy Treasurer	Honiara City Council
TONGA	Mr Samuela POHIVA	OIC Local Government	Prime Ministers Office
	Mr Sione V Mafile'o	Senior Returning Officer	Prime Ministers Office
TUVALU	Mr Iete AVANITELE	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development
	Mr Taualo PENIVAO	CEO	Funafuti Town Council
VANUATU	Ms Cherol Ala IANNA	Director General, Corporate Services Unit	Ministry of Internal Affairs
	Ms Michele JONAS	A/Deputy Director, Development Planning Unit	Dept Local Authorities, Ministry of Internal Affairs
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UN HABITAT	Ms Silvia GALLO	Urban Climate Resilience Team Leader	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
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COMPASS HOUSING	Mr Ben WONG	Secretary, Global Home Network	Compass Housing
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