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**PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY ASSEMBLY ON MDGS /LDCS**  
Reviewing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the  
Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) towards the MDG Summit and the  
Fourth UN Conference on LDCs (LDC IV)  
3-6 August 2010, Port Vila, Vanuatu

**PROCEEDINGS**



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Pacific Civil Society Representatives adopting the Port Vila Declaration

# Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Context	1
1.2 Pacific Civil Society Assembly on LDCs/MDGs	1
1.3 Specific Objectives	1
1.4 Outcomes	2
1.5 Assembly Process	2
<b>2. Summary of Welcoming Remarks and Opening Statements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Country Presentations and Thematic Issues</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Kiribati	7
3.2 Tuvalu	9
3.3 Vanuatu	11
3.4 Samoa	15
3.5 Solomon Islands	15
<b>4. Way Forward: Summary of Discussion on Country Papers</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>5. Moving Forward through Regional Cooperation</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Annex I - Final Programme</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Annex II – List of Participants</b>	<b>25</b>

## Foreword

In August 2010, LDC Watch in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), the UN Millennium Campaign (UNMC), UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and two national host organisations from Vanuatu, the Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO) and Guiguinvanua Sacred Universal System, facilitated the bringing together of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the five Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Pacific region as well as regional and international development organisations for a Pacific Civil Society Assembly on LDCs and MDGs in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Assembly was part of the review process of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for LDCs for the Decade 2000-2010 and MDGs in LDCs.

The Brussels Programme was declared at the Third UN Conference on LDCs (LDC-III) in Brussels in May 2001, and contains seven international commitments and 30 international goals - including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - aiming to achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development in the LDCs.

Having evolved out of the parallel NGO Forum during the LDC III, LDC Watch has since been monitoring the implementation of the BPoA, MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) in LDCs, through its campaigns and policy advocacy, both as partner and pressure group. In July 2009, UN-OHRLLS officially mandated LDC Watch to lead and coordinate the civil society preparatory process towards the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs (LDC IV), scheduled to take place in May-June 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. LDC Watch has since assumed this important responsibility, and the organisation of this Pacific Civil Society Assembly is one of its key milestones in the LDC IV preparatory process.

The Assembly was convened during a period of global climate crisis affecting the Pacific islands as well as financial crisis affecting industrialised nations, the latter of whom have seriously lagged behind on climate change commitments, leading to fundamental security threats for the islands of this region. The need to immediately step up concrete action on MDG 7 remains, and cannot be overstressed for the Pacific Islands. This report presents the rich experiences, perspectives and development models of Pacific LDCs in working for pro-people development in individual countries and in the Pacific region as a whole.

We are thankful to all participants for their invaluable contributions, the co-organisers UN-OHRLLS and UNMC, for their cooperation and their recognition on the importance of this cause, and also to UNDEF for their support. Finally, we are grateful to our local partners for their support towards the success of the Assembly. Progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) must be accelerated in the first half of this decade, and the review of the BPoA must lead to a new LDC Programme of Action that is bigger, better and addresses the multiple crises that have unfolded in LDCs over the past decade. We are hopeful that this report of proceedings will provide valuable insight to a wide range of development stakeholders interested in the progress, challenges and opportunities facing Pacific LDCs and other LDCs today.

**Dr Arjun Karki**

International Co-ordinator

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Context

In 1971, 24 countries were categorised as LDCs, distinguished by the structural weakness of their economic, institutional and human resources. The three main criteria used to establish the group were 1) per capita GDP of US\$ 100 per person in 1968 or less; 2) a share of manufacturing in total GDP of 10 percent or less; and 3) an adult literacy rate of 20 percent or less. While revisions have been made to the criteria over time, the fundamental principle of identifying LDCs as countries that face structural impediments to growth has essentially remained the same.

Currently, the revised criteria include the following indicators: 1) Gross National Income per capita; 2) Human Asset Index; and 3) Economic Vulnerability Index. To date, three UN Conferences on LDCs have been held and three programmes of action have been devised to address the need for special measures for these countries. The decade-long Brussels Programme of Action was set out to complement the MDGs and both represents a framework for partnership between LDCs and development partners, as well as a poverty eradication strategy.

Despite such measures, the number of LDCs has increased to 49 as economic growth has not led to commensurate gains in poverty reduction. The upcoming LDC IV in 2011 in Istanbul will mark an important bridge between the review of implementation of the BPoA and the way forward for the next decade. In the build-up to the conference, the importance of CSOs and their networks have been recognised in the preparations and planning leading to the next set of action plans.

## 1.2 Pacific Civil Society Assembly on LDCs/MDGs

The Pacific Civil Society Assembly on LDCs/MDGs was convened on 3 – 6 August in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The event was organised by LDC Watch in association with the UNOHRRLLS and UNMC, with support from UNDEF; it was hosted by the Vanuatu Indigenous Peoples Forum (VIP Forum) and the Vanuatu Association of Non Government Organisations (VANGO).

The focus of the Assembly was “Assessing Development Challenges in the Pacific Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Reviewing the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) towards the 2011 Fourth UN Conference on LDCs (LDC IV)”.

## 1.3 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the Pacific LDC Assembly were:

- Raising awareness on the LDCs and the BPoA review process and the MDGs among all regional stakeholders, namely CSOs, government representatives, the UN system, development partner organisations, the Bretton Woods institutions, other multilateral organisations and the media;
- Assessing and reviewing the policies and programmes of Pacific LDC governments, their development partners, the UN agencies and other multi-lateral institutions with regard to the implementation of the BPoA and achievement of the MDGs;
- Raising the level of awareness among CSOs for their meaningful contribution and engagement towards and at the 2010 MDG Summit and the LDC IV in 2011;

- Networking and alliance-building from national to regional to global levels on the LDC IV and MDGf processes, and strategising on the effective role of CSOs towards both processes.

## **1.4 Outcomes**

The outcomes of the Assembly were:

- Shared knowledge and understanding among the different stakeholders on the status and issues of the BPoA and MDGs in the Pacific LDCs;
- Strengthened capacity of Pacific LDC CSOs to take on the issues of the BPoA and MDGs through sustained advocacy and campaigns;
- Enhanced networks, alliances, campaigns and policy advocacy at the national, regional and global levels towards poverty eradication and sustainable development in the LDCs;
- Established functional mechanism for follow-up towards the LDC IV including the MDG Summit;
- Expanded LDC Watch network in the Pacific LDCs.

## **1.5 Assembly Process**

- This historical Assembly on LDCs and MDGs brought together almost 70 participants, which included delegates from the five Pacific Islands of Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, as well as wider stakeholder partners such as national and regional CBOs, CSOs, NGOs, religious organisations, media, private sector representatives, LDC Watch, UN-OHRLS, UNMC, diplomatic missions and the Government of Vanuatu.
- To achieve the objectives, a broad-based participatory and inclusive process was followed in order to ensure that the Pacific CSOs initiate and continue their engagement with all stakeholders in the long run. During the Assembly, LDC Watch worked as a facilitator to this process – a role it will continue to play in the longer-term. The Assembly consisted of:
  - Opening Ceremony, including opening statements and remarks by LDC major partners.
  - Plenary Sessions which included presentations by each of the five Pacific LDCs on three thematic areas, namely: 1) BPoA and MDGs in Pacific LDCs, 2) Agriculture and Fisheries and 3) Impact of Climate Change in the Pacific region. These were followed by open discussions, interaction on the collective outcome, and the presentation of the “Port Vila Declaration” at the official closing session.
  - A Pacific Civil Society Strategy Meeting took place on the final day, to discuss strategies to enhance national, regional and global participation and contribution of CSOs in the issues of LDCs and preparations leading up to LDC IV, and in particular ways to build regional collaboration.

## 2. Summary of Welcoming Remarks and Opening Statements

The opening ceremony of the Assembly was officiated by **Reverend Ephraim Mathias**, representing the Vanuatu Christian Council.

**Motarilavo Hilda Lini** welcomed everyone to Port Vila, and to the unique opportunity to focus attention on the issues of the Pacific LDCs and the MDGs. She recalled that in 2001, two representatives from each of the five Pacific LDCs attended the civil society preparatory workshop in Nadi, Fiji, immediately prior to the LDC III at the European Union (EU) Headquarters in Brussels. In her capacity then as head of the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, she led the Pacific LDC Civil Society delegation to the LDC III. Ms. Lini noted that this Assembly, however, is historical because it involves a wider range of stakeholders and partners.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, **Honourable Moana Carcasses Kalosil** officially opened the Assembly on behalf of the Vanuatu Government. Minister Moana Carcasses Kalosil in his opening address called on the civil societies of the Pacific LDCs to consult each other and promote the principle of consensus as a "Pacific Way" of moving forward with the MDGs and other development goals in the region. He highlighted that bringing voices together will help develop not only a shared understanding of the current situation, both as individual nations and as a region, but also where the Pacific Island people aspire to travel in the coming years and decades.

On behalf of the Government, he confirmed that Vanuatu as one of the 5 LDCs of the Pacific region also continues to face the challenges and constraints that this status suggests, combined with the unique challenges of the Pacific region: vulnerability to natural disasters; long distances between population centres; the devastating impact of climate change, and; depletion of the fragile stocks of natural resources, in particular, fisheries.

He also confirmed that while Vanuatu's economy has grown rapidly over recent years due to the success of good policies, increased investment and commitment to supporting the growth and diversification of the private sector, the Government is very much aware of more work that needs to be done, and thus more progress yet to be made.

In terms of the gains from overseas development assistance (ODA) and in particular development progress, he emphasised the need to ensure that national income is also local income, and that development issues must be discussed openly and transparently to allow consensus to slowly form.

Minister Kalosil stated that it is through such an approach of solving problems collectively in such forums that things can be achieved in the Pacific, if the region is to continue to move forward into an uncertain and challenging future. Finally, he concluded that in order for the five LDCs to make marked progress, Governments of the five Pacific LDCs must work in partnership with civil societies who tirelessly advocate for vulnerable groups.

In conveying the message from Mr. **Cheick Sidi Diarra**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN OHRLLS, Mr. **Peter Kenilorea** expressed gratitude to LDC Watch for the organisation of this important meeting and to the distinguished participants, for investing the time and efforts to deliberate on LDC issues.

He stated it is crucial that civil society has the opportunity and the necessary space to make their contribution as preparations continue for the LDC IV scheduled for 2011 in

Istanbul, Turkey. He added that this contribution includes, above all, a bottom-up assessment of the implementation of the Brussels Programme. He reminded the Assembly that the Brussels Programme itself recognises the integral role that civil society has in its implementation.

He stressed that this meeting presents another opportunity to share insights and recommendations so that the final outcome of the Conference in 2011 will reflect a broad range of concerns, strategies and recommendations that meaningfully impact lives in the LDCs.

He recalled that ten years ago, we were faced with a different set of issues, whereas today we have witnessed a sequence of global economic crises that have combined to present a major threat to the development of the vulnerable countries. He noted the importance of focusing on the challenges that have emerged in this past decade that further thwart progress in the LDCs. He acknowledged that the financial crisis coupled with climate change creates a set of serious challenges for small islands as we take stock of the last decade.

Mr. Kenilorea stated that as we embark on the comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme, it is clear that the goals and targets of the programme have remained elusive. If progress has been limited in the last 10 years, it is not for lack of a framework of action. The seven commitments of the Brussels Programme provided a comprehensive blueprint for partnership confronting the key challenges faced by the LDCs.

He acknowledged with certainty the major roles already played by civil society and NGOs in many key areas of the BPOA, in particular in holding governments accountable to its people. He reaffirmed the unique capacity of civil society to forge grand coalitions that transcend borders and barriers, running from the grassroots to the international level. However, he called for greater engagement of civil society at all levels, in order to make the required progress. The potential of deeper and more meaningful partnerships needs to be exploited to its maximum.

Mr. Kenilorea acknowledged the unique vulnerabilities of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with particular reference to the Mauritius Strategy. He reported that the Mauritius Strategy review process is being pursued concurrently with other important review processes with the UN.

However, he acknowledged that while the SIDS have themselves made some progress at the national and regional levels in building institutional capacity for sustainable development, in formulating strategies and action plans, and in carrying out policy reforms, many of them continue to encounter constraints which impede their sustainable development. Those constraints include limited technical, financial and human resources, as well as the impact of exogenous factors, particularly, the global economic and financial crises.

He recognised that the gravity of impact of climate change and sea-level rise on the overall sustainable development of small islands cannot be emphasised enough. In small island states, discussion on the integration of climate change adaptation into land, watershed and coastal zone management, as well as human resettlement away from low-lying lands and outer islands, is inevitable.

It was indicated that the implications of the recent world food crisis and ongoing food insecurity are felt throughout the SIDS and therefore, it is imperative that concerted efforts are made to build capacity for local production in order to enhance food security. Furthermore, the importance of sustainable management of fisheries, forestry, agriculture and freshwater resources was highlighted as important for improving food security in SIDS.

Mr. Kenilorea emphasised that the number of people living in poverty across the world is staggering, and that this number is increasing. While other developing countries make progress, the LDCs including the LDC SIDS are sinking deeper into poverty. Building human and institutional capacities is paramount to the development of LDCs already living in abject poverty in the LDCs; this is essential for providing solutions that genuinely lift people from the clutch of poverty.

In concluding, Mr. Kenilorea underlined that UN ORHLLS is eager to hear ideas from civil society not only on the implementation of the Brussels Programme, but also on how to enhance the contribution of civil society on the road beyond 2011.

**Ambassador Aldo Dell’Ariccia**, Head of the EU Delegation to Vanuatu expressed his appreciation to participate in the opening ceremony. He affirmed that the EU as a major stakeholder is committed to the implementation of the BPoA and the MDGs through partnerships with non-State actors. He urged civil society not to depend only on their governments and on donor agencies for development results, but also to use all available resources and means to achieve poverty and other development indicators.

**Dr. Arjun Karki**, International Co-ordinator of LDC Watch expressed his gratitude to everyone for their efforts to participate at the Assembly. He explained to delegates the main components of the preparatory processes leading to the UN LDC IV Conference in May 2011 in Turkey and MDG review in September 2010 in New York, as well as the background of LDC Watch and its role in these review processes. He confirmed that as the only international LDC civil society network engaging in both policy advocacy and campaigns in the interest of the LDCs since 2001, LDC Watch has been officially mandated by the UN-OHRLLS to lead the civil society process towards the LDC IV in 2011.

Dr. Karki drew attention to the fact that there are 49 LDCs with a total population of over 800 million people. In the context of the Pacific LDCs, two key issues to consider are “economic smallness”, “economic remoteness” and “vulnerabilities”. He added also that with the expected graduation of Samoa as well as the fact that countries such as Bangladesh are exceeding the population criterion, the politics of defining the LDC at that time is now changing, and that it is important to think about what this means for Pacific LDCs from the perspective of civil society.

He noted that LDC Watch has grown out of the parallel NGO Forum process at the LDC III in Brussels in 2001 and supported by the UN and the European Commission to encourage NGO/CSO involvement in the process. LDC Watch acts as a coordinating body for LDC civil society to advocate, campaign and network for the realisation and the review of the BPoA including other internationally agreed development goals such as the MDGs. It therefore goes beyond the BPoA in addressing poverty, hunger, social injustices and human rights violations in the LDCs.

He emphasised that LDC Watch has been raising its voice and articulating civil society perspectives in a multi-stakeholder framework, engaging with the UN, LDC governments and their development partners, both as partner and pressure group.

Finally, Dr. Karki concluded by reminding civil society representatives that LDC Watch is made up of civil society organisations such as themselves, and assuring the support of the LDC Watch structure, therefore encouraged delegates to take ownership of the Assembly and any forthcoming actions.

**Ambassador Roy Micky Joy**, Vanuatu Permanent Representative to the Kingdom of Belgium and Europe highlighted that after 30 years and 3 LDC specific conferences and programs, LDC member countries in the Pacific are still struggling with the same list of challenges.



*Participants engaging in a lively discussion*

He emphasised the need for all Pacific LDCs to understand the 3 criteria used by the UN Committee for Development Policy that defines LDCs. He explained that in important ways, the existence of the LDC category has created the space to negotiate for the specific development needs of such countries. On the other hand, however, optimism is punctuated by the lack of tangible results. He therefore stressed that we must be mindful and realistic of both the opportunities that the LDC category provides and the amount of effort still needed to deliver tangible development benefits to LDC countries and its people.

He noted that the way forward for Pacific LDC is the attainment of MDGs, which will require paying special attention to differential constraints in LDCs and SIDS, but will create solid groundwork for further progress. He stated that in order for the SIDS to achieve the MDGs and BPoA, there needs to be a renewed partnership between government, civil society and donors.

Ambassador Joy urged participants to focus on strategies that are in line with the contextual realities of the island economies, and on the need to work harder to increase capacity and production. He emphasised the importance of trade, both exports and imports. He also noted the need for acquiring new technologies for improved production.

He noted that most of the LDCs in the South Pacific are benefitting in certain ways from the Integrated Framework (IF) to improve their trade capacity, but emphasised that there is still much work needed in the area of greater engagement and contribution by the traditional bilateral donors, namely NZAID and AUSAID. In this regard, he affirmed that the IF process, which aids LDCs in addressing supply-side constraints to export, is a valuable development asset, but noted that further lobbying work can be done to improve the situation further.

## 3. Country Presentations and Thematic Issues

### 3.1 Kiribati

#### Thematic Issue I: Review on BPoA and MDGs

Kiribati presented two reports: "Kiribati CSO Review on the BPoA" and "Kiribati CSO Review on the MDGs", by **David Teaabo and Moia Tetoa**:

**Nation:** Since independence in 1979, Kiribati has built a reputation for political stability. It has also built effective relationships with the international community and institutions and has attracted external aid from bilateral and multilateral sources.

**People:** The population had reached 92,533 by the last census in 2005 – an increase of 1.8 percent from 2000 census; the next census is due this year. 44 percent live in South Tarawa (capital and main CBD for Kiribati). The youth population has a median age of 21 and is highly mobile, especially in the Gilbert Group and Line Islands; several hundreds migrated to New Zealand between 2000-2005 for work and permanent residency.

**Economy:** Kiribati's economy is fragile: it consumes more than it produces, imports more than it exports. Public sector accounts for more than half of the estimated GDP. The main income for Kiribati includes fishing license fees, revenue equalisation reserve fund (RERF) invested in overseas financial markets, and remittances of Kiribati seafarers.

#### Development Planning Processes within the CSOs Sector

The Kiribati Association of NGOs (KANGO) Strategic Plan 2007-2010 considered national and regional initiatives and programs when developed. The next SP 2011-2014 will mainstream the MDGs including other regional and global CSOs' declarations such as the Principles of the Pacific CSO Development Effectiveness. The main accomplishments and challenges have been noted below in relation to four of the seven BPoA commitments.

#### Commitment 1: Fostering a People-Centred Development

##### *Accomplishments*

- Some CSOs and NGOs are focusing on improving the livelihoods of communities in Kiribati.

##### *Challenges*

- Limited capacity and resources of CSOs.
- Lack development capacity e.g. human skills and investment capital.
- Increasing dependence on foreign aid.

#### Commitment 3: Building Human and Institutional Capacities

##### *Accomplishments*

- Increased amount of capacity building trainings by NGOs.

##### *Challenges*

- Strengthening workforce capacity
- Duplication of training activities, lack of appropriateness, e.g. insufficient training packages are translated into Kiribati language.

#### **Commitment 4: Building Productive Capacities to make Globalization work for LDCs**

##### ***Challenges***

- Remoteness and isolation of islands.
- Unreliability of services e.g. air/surface.

#### **Commitment 6: Reducing Vulnerability and protecting the environment**

##### ***Accomplishments***

- Development of CSO Commitment Statement on Climate Change.

##### ***Challenges***

- Rising sea levels, storm surges and contamination of freshwater by salt water.
- Increased littering and pollution in the capital due to lack of sensitisation.

#### **Kiribati CSO Review on the MDGs**

Kiribati CSO Review on MDGs focused on the Women NGO sector and was carried out by the Aia Maia Ainen Kiribati (AMAK), an umbrella organization for women. It addressed the following themes:

- What is civil society's perspective on the achievement of the MDGs?
- What is its engagement in the implementation of the MDGs?
- CSOs' views on improving their participation and contribution to achieving the MDGs
- Activities of women NGOs towards achieving of the MDGs were substantial in the area of advocacy towards the following:

#### **Goal 3: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women**

- Ratification of CEDAW in 2004 by the Government of Kiribati
- Change of the corroboration rule in the Evidence Act 2004;
- Government's initiative on the study on Violence Against Women in 2007;
- Increased Kiribati Police Services trainings on VAW and Domestic Violence;
- Looking into a new restructured Women's Division to increase its capacity to work towards achieving articles of the CEDAW and the MDG.

#### **Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality**

Women NGOs have carried out activities such as:

- Promotion of eating of balanced food for the health of families and mostly young children as a means to combat child mortality;
- Encouragement of gardening through outreach programs to homes seeking assistance on planting cabbage and other vegetables;

### **Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health**

Women NGOs involved in:

- Interventions on the end violence against women;
- Study which showed the difficulties women experience in having little and no say in use of contraceptives;
- Capacity-building trainings to address teenage pregnancy and post-natal care to mothers.

### **Goal 6: Combat HIV Aids, Tuberculosis and Other Disease**

- Participation and representation of women NGOs in the relevant committees is essential. Some progress has been made on this.
- The role is to have a say in the activities carried out by government on combating the abovementioned diseases.

### **Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

- There has been work on protection of coastal shores to prevent depletion and poisoning of marine goods on shore.
- There has been a CSO Commitment Statement on Climate Change.
- Insufficient analysis on the impact of climate change and environmental disasters on women and children.

### **Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development**

- Capacity building through best practice sharing is required to move CSOs towards becoming a stronger sustainable collective voice for all women of the country.

## **3.2 Tuvalu**

### **Thematic Issue I: Review on BPoA and MDGs**

The Tuvalu presentation focused on "How Civil Society Participates on MDGs in Small Islands Developing States", by **Semese Alefaio**. The objective was to highlight Tuvalu's civil society role in implementing MDGs and identifying some of the challenges faced on individual targets.

**Land:** Tuvalu consists of nine tiny coral atolls with a total area of 25.6 square kilometres. The highest point is less than 4 meters and coastal erosion is the biggest problem. There is hardly any forest cover, and agricultural production is very limited. The main crops are coconut, banana, pulaka, taro, breadfruits and papaya.

**People:** Tuvalu has a population of 10,000 people. 2/3 of the population lives in rural areas based on the Falekaupule system. Many Tuvaluans have migrated to Fiji and New Zealand. There is Kaupule on each island. Tuvalu and English are spoken in Tuvalu.

**Economy:** Small and highly vulnerable to world events. Heavily dependent on ODA; Tuvalu Trust Fund (TTF); Ships Registry; Fishing licenses; remittances from seafarers and the private sector;

### **MDG/LDC Processes**

Tuvalu reported its national commitment to the MDGs/BPoA mainstreaming process. In 2003, the Government endorsed the MDGs and a National Summit on Sustainable

Development held in July 2004 produced the Malefatuga Declaration as the road map. A National MDGs Taskforce was formed in September 2004 to oversee the implementation. In February 2005, the UN MDG Taskforce provided technical assistance in developing Tuvalu MDG report. The first MDG report was published in 2006, followed by the publishing of Kakega Matrix Returns in 2008 and the publication of the BPoA report 2001 – 2010 in December 2009.

### **Focal themes of Kakega II**

- Good governance
- Macroeconomic growth and stability
- Social Development; health, welfare, youth, gender, housing and poverty alleviation
- Outer islands and Falekaupule development
- Employment and private sector development
- Human resource development
- Natural resources: Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism and Environmental Management
- Support services and utilities

### **Linking Civil Society to MDGs**

The report cited annual organised activities by 13 MDG stakeholders which link the participation of all CBOs, CSOs, NGOs, private sector and the Government in the following:

- Empowerment on livelihood issues and sustainable development;
- Climate change and research;
- Environmental Conservation;
- Renewable energy;
- Gender and governance;
- Family planning and health;
- Island development, governance and community planning;
- Good governance, sustainable development and culture;
- Individual prosperity and sustainable development;
- Humanitarian, first aid, disability, blood donor recruitment, disaster management;
- Youths' livelihoods and awareness;
- Commercial generating activities, small business enterprise and information sharing.

### **Conclusion**

Tuvalu civil society feels that Government must more urgently consider the important role of civil society (on larger scale) to accelerating MDG progress. Above all, it is felt that insufficient efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts will result in accelerating the rate of poverty and its impacts on Tuvaluan citizens, land and future.

### 3.3 Vanuatu

#### Thematic Issue I: Review on BPOA and MDGs

Vanuatu's presentation was entitled "Banking on Melanesian Values", by **Chief Viraleo Boborenvanua**. It presented Vanuatu's history as an LDC, and two practical development models by CBOs and CSOs that could contribute to Vanuatu's achievements of MDGs and graduation from LDC status.

The presentation stated that it is important to understand how each Pacific LDC became an LDC at the beginning, and why very few have graduated. Chief Boborenvanua recalled that when Vanuatu became an independent sovereign state in 1980, the former colonial administrators had already defined her status as LDC. However, he said Vanuatu's independence vision was to become economically self-sufficient and self-reliant as a sovereign state within 10 years of independence. This would bring social justice and dignity to the people this new nation.

He added that the LDC status was to be a temporary measure while Vanuatu developed strategic plans to achieve its vision of independence. For the first 10 years, the Vanuatu government tried to use a combination of traditional Melanesian values, cultural strengths and modern democratic principles to achieve a harmonious, prosperous and self-reliant independent state. The government embarked on policies focusing on agriculture, fisheries and infrastructure development such as road construction, wharfs and airports on almost all the islands to facilitate this process.

He stated that the leadership and coordinated efforts by the Vanuatu government had convinced the UN that Vanuatu was on its way to graduation and by February 1991, the UN first proposed to the Vanuatu Government the idea of graduation from the LDCs. The latest proposal from the UN is for Vanuatu to graduate in 2013, which means the three-year grace period must begin immediately. However, as Chief Boborenvanua stated, the government response has always been that Vanuatu is not ready, citing the country's continued "low income, human assets weakness and economic vulnerability" as the reasons to continue as an LDC.

#### Issues Delaying Vanuatu Graduation Process

A respected traditional leader noted that the three criteria do not apply to Vanuatu, as the majority of Vanuatu population is self-reliant: they do not rely on cash income and are sustained by the traditional subsistence economy for their livelihood. The human assets weakness does not apply since for 30 years education has been self-financed. Given that the situation has not been rectified, there are questions about whether the government could use this as an excuse to remain indefinitely as an LDC. The vulnerability issue does not only apply to LDCs but applies to all Pacific Island states and small islands states in all regions of the world.

Others added that Government and donor funds is not spent on people-community-government consultation projects in order to come up with responsive policies for community development. Most funding seemed to be spent on projects with high administrative costs, political party-initiated projects and legal fees and compensation for wrong decisions and misguided policies, which have affected effective service delivery to the majority rural population.

Some participants proposed that in Vanuatu, urban poverty is a choice, as everyone owns customary land to which they can return and live within the subsistence economy. They argued that as the vast majority of Vanuatu's 300,000-strong population as sustained by the subsistence rather than the cash economy, the cash income criterion is not a true marker of poverty or wealth in Vanuatu. This point was reiterated several times in the context of the Pacific LDCs on the whole.

A few delegates concluded that the social, economic and political aspirations of 90 percent of Vanuatu's population have not been properly interpreted into mainstream politics, national agendas and strategic policy directions. While civil society and communities have always been prepared to carry out national economic programmes, they need government leadership to coordinate the implementation of programmes.

### **Vanuatu to Graduate from LDC by 2015**

**Chief Boborenvanua** recalled that the latest proposal from the UN is for Vanuatu to graduate in 2013, which means the three-year grace period had to begin immediately. He stated that it only takes government's political will to initiate a dialogue on the appropriate reform needed for graduation.

He confirmed that the Melanesian Institute of Science, Philosophy, Humanity and Technology has prepared a detailed road map as their contribution to the reform. He said this road map is applicable to all levels of society and administration in Vanuatu and is adaptable to all Pacific countries. He then proposed the following model as an example of alternative models of development drawing on indigenous values and initiative.

#### **Model 1: Guiguinvanua Economic Model for Peace and Human Security**

**History:** This model is based on traditional Melanesian value systems, natural science, natural environment and biodiversity, natural resources, natural wisdom, indigenous philosophy, humanity and technology given by the Creator. It was developed in 1983 as a contribution towards completing the decolonisation process in Vanuatu.

It is being reviewed and reformed every 5 years, enhancing rediscovery of indigenous scientific knowledge, philosophy, technology, intellectual development and community growth.

**Vision:** Sustainable peaceful communities with dignified people in a sovereign state of Vanuatu.

#### **Mission:**

- Build a new decolonised generation to sustain Vanuatu indigenous heritage
- Capacity-building for administrators of sustainable livelihood and communities
- Access cash through indigenous valued goods and services to be available for exchange with indigenous currencies by 2016

#### **Guiding Principles**

- Understand and respect cultural values and property
- Use of available indigenous knowledge and natural resources
- Be professional and productive at work
- Be self sufficient and self reliant
- Value community caring and sharing
- Commitment to work and be an achiever
- Ready to live, learn, share, teach and work with other cultures

#### **Development Goals**

- Excel beyond colonial and neo-colonial systems that continue to rob the people off their land, culture, community values and dignity

- Use Vanuatu indigenous value systems as foundation for harmonious, prosperous and peaceful state
- Train productive citizens, leaders, families and communities
- Produce caring and sharing citizens
- Produce socially secured and economically self sufficient citizens
- Embark on capacity-building for community governance, economic self reliance and state sovereignty.

### **Strength and Support**

- Abundance of natural elements such as air, sea and land and cultural wisdom as foundation for our well-being
- Use of the same value systems that have proved useful for thousands of years for sustenance of community livelihood
- Available scientific knowledge to follow the wisdom of the stars to live interdependently with everyone who share our same planet and universe
- As human beings have been given the intellectual capacity to lead, we have an obligation, firstly to safeguard our relationship with planet earth and the universe for the well being of our people, families, tribes, nations and states
- Freedom to initiate and establish partnership at all levels of society to strengthen our well-being
- The Melanesian Global Institute of Science, Philosophy, Humanity and Technology has been teaching the model since 1998 and it is implemented by community *nakamals* in parts of Vanuatu
- Operates on its own customary land for food security and development
- Social, economic and political programmes are economically supported by the indigenous bank and reserve, administered by the indigenous governance system
- Founded on a system which has enabled Vanuatu to survive past human catastrophes, natural disasters, the Second World War and new world orders that have created categories of world economies, including the LDC paradigm
- People produce their own indigenous wealth and currencies. There is a bank and reserve system of indigenous currencies operating in this system since 1986
- Developed its own measuring devices to achieve the MDGs and BPoA
- All citizens of community *nakamals* linked to the system are on the chiefs' monthly payroll. Payment is in indigenous currencies
- Since 2001, the Guiguanua governance has been using MDGs and the BPoA to measure the economic empowerment of rural farmers, urban dwellers, NGOs, local authorities and Vanuatu state government
- Since 2004, there is a system in place where all community labour, natural resources and traditional economy are valued in indigenous currencies
- 2009 witnessed the reaffirmation by 2000 Vanuatu tribal leaders of *Guiguanua* Governance, Administration and Economic Independence
- Guiguanua Development Plan 2010 – 2015 is in place



*Participants share the Guiguanua Economic Model for Peace and Human Security*

### **Model 2: VANWODS Microfinance (Vanuatu Women’s Development Scheme)**

The Chief Executive Officer of VANWODS Microfinance scheme **John Salong** presented **a summary of individual models for development:**

VANWODS Microfinance scheme (NGO) assists and trains Vanuatu women in the use of subsistence and cash economy, income generating, savings, loans and business techniques.

#### **Principles**

- Get up in the morning and work
- Save a little each week
- Be trustworthy
- Always work together

#### **Goals**

- Do it Right the First Time
- Open and Honest Communication
- Set small target

#### **Way Forward by VANWODS Microfinance**

- The MDGs and the BPoA will be realised when every day, everyone, including the most disenfranchised, takes baby steps towards the goals set at the international meetings
- The international partners must become a walking stick to support us in the LDCs, mindful of the special needs of the marginalised and disenfranchised

- The threat is that instead of being supportive walking sticks, our partners will lead us to detour into Trade Agreements that benefit the rich and further robs the disadvantaged and disenfranchised off their dignity and security

### 3.4 Samoa

#### Thematic Issue II: Climate Change

Samoa presentation focused on "Climate Change and Related Issues". **Moana Clarke** presented images of global warming, greenhouse effect, deforestation, climate change, sea level rise and its effect on environment and natural disasters. She also focused on the catastrophic effects of the 2009 tsunami on the population of Samoa, and the aftermath. Images of shattered livelihoods were presented, as well as those depicting other challenges that people had to live with as they rebuilt their confidence, spirituality, families, homes, communities, institutions and infrastructure. Ms. Clarke also drew attention to international agreed principles such as the MDGs, the Kyoto Protocol and 2010 Climate Change Conference. The presentation ended with a Cree Indian Prophecy.

### 3.5 Solomon Islands

#### Thematic Issue III: Agriculture and Fisheries

Solomon Islands have a land area of 28,370 square kilometres covering a total of 1.6 million square kilometres of ocean. Administratively, it is divided into nine provincial governments and one city council.

The 2009 census report is yet to be released; however unofficial figures indicate a population of 530,669. **Dove Sale and Veronica Lafena** presented the following:

#### Domestic Economy

Solomon Islands relies heavily on forestry, fisheries, agriculture, mining and explorations, manufacturing, electricity, water, construction, retail and wholesale trade, transports and communications and other services. The GDP experienced a sharp contraction of 2.2 percent in 2009 as opposed to the 7.3 percent growth in 2008. Declines were recorded in most sectors except for construction, transport and communication and other related services. Nominal GDP per capita rose by 7 percent to US\$ 1, 067 per head in 2009.

#### Agriculture

Agriculture is the second largest earner after logging. It is dominated by three major crops: cocoa, copra and palm oil. Other commodities are produced by subsistence farmers for food and living.

Cocoa production grew by 5 percent to 4553 tons in 2009 despite non performance of some major producers and plantations. Assistance has been given to cocoa farmers by has been made possible through the Australian Government Cocoa livelihood improvement Project. The project aims to increase production of cocoa to 10,000 tons by 2014 earning. Small holder farmers are producing over 50 percent with a total earning of \$200 million.

Copra output plunged by 37 percent to 24,740 tons in 2009, and coconut oil production increased by 16 percent although the price has dropped. The Central Bank of Solomon Islands predicts an increase in copra production in 2010.

Palm oil production witnessed a significant growth. Crude oil increased by 14 percent to 25,123 tons and palm oil kernel increased by 15 percent to 7083 tons. 2009 recorded a total of 19,300 tons contraction of 24 percent from 2008 mainly to a major fishing company ceasing operations and high rainfall during the peak season



*Participants listen to country presentations*

## **Fishing**

Solomon Islands lie in one of the world's richest fishing grounds covering a total of 1.6 million square kilometres of ocean. Fish is the third largest earner after forestry and agriculture, with a total earning of SBD\$192 million inclusive of license fees. Commercial fishing of tuna is dominated by licensed foreign fishing vessels.

## **Livelihood**

Livelihood has been debated in a lot of schools. A former parliamentarian believes Solomon Islands do not live below the poverty line. The NGO sector, after acknowledging methods used to measure poverty, believes a quarter of Solomon Islanders live below the poverty line. This information is important for aid donors who provide assistance in this area.

However, the presenters emphasised that there are strong indications that poverty exists in Solomon Islands. One of these factors is the prevalence of prostitution of girls as young as 14 due to desperation; some married women also join foreign fishing vessels in return for salt fish or money. They highlighted also that incidents of theft are commonly agreed to be on the increase, and begging is also increasing in the capital city. Finally, the power and monopoly of the vendor over farmers is resulting in low prices for the latter, but high prices for the customer.

## **Potential Commodities**

These commodities need further development:

Honey, Coffee, Kava, Poultry, Piggery, Small-holder Cocoa Project, Small Holder Fishing, Vegetable / Fruits Farming, Training for farmers, Sea Weed and Rice Planting.

## 4. Way Forward: Summary of Discussion on Country Papers

### Global/national level

- Develop standard Monitoring and Evaluation tools for the BPoA.
- For streamlining purposes, country strategic plans should incorporate the Beijing Platform of Action, MDGs, LDC programme of action and the national development priorities.

### KIRIBATI –

#### Brussels Programme of Action

##### National level

- Increase awareness and advocacy programs for BPoA;
- Mainstream BPoA commitments/goals into CSOs' development plans;
- National consultations between Government and CSOs to undertake review of BPoA.

### Solomon Islands

These commodities/areas need further development:

- Honey, Coffee, Kava, Poultry, Piggery, Small-holder Cocoa Project, Small Holder Fishing, Vegetable/Fruit Farming, Training for farmers, Sea Weed, and Rice Planting.

### Tuvalu

Continue to link civil society to MDG activities and programmes organised by MDG stakeholders in the following:

- Empowerment on livelihood issues and sustainable development;
- Climate change and research;
- Environmental conservation;
- Renewable energy;
- Gender and governance;
- Family planning and health;
- Island development, governance and community planning;
- Good governance, sustainable development and culture;
- Individual prosperity and sustainable development;
- Humanitarian, first aid, disability, blood donor recruitment, disaster management;
- Youths livelihoods and awareness;
- Commercial income-generating activities, small business enterprise and information sharing.

### Vanuatu

- Recalling the latest proposal from the UN for Vanuatu to graduate in 2013, Vanuatu civil society organisations:

- Call for government's political will in initiating a dialogue on the appropriate reform needed for Vanuatu's graduation from LDC.
- Confirm their readiness to contribute to the reform with existing models that are applicable to all levels of society and administration in Vanuatu.

### **General Summary**

On the whole, participating CSOs from Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu revealed in their presentations that they were more aware of the MDGs than the Brussels Programme, with many delegates noting that they were only made aware of the BPoA when they received the invitation which asked them to prepare a country paper based on the BPoA. Most NGOs, therefore, have very little or no idea of what is the Brussels Program of Action. Although listed as LDCs, Pacific Governments have not raised much awareness on the issue of being an LDC.

A Representative from the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Government Organisations (SUNGO) said the only time he as a member of the civil society organisation heard of the term LDC was when the Prime Minister came out publicly to tell the country and its people that Samoa is graduating from being an LDC.

Several delegates expressed their discomfort at the terminology of "least developed country", given that it has not been defined by Pacific countries themselves. They noted that the Pacific is being excluded from ideas, analysis, and definitions that affect them, without any real explanation from those introducing ideas and determining discourses.

Representatives from Tuvalu expressed that it is necessary for civil society to be made fully aware of the benefits of being a least developed country and the risks of graduating from being an LDC.

While awareness on the BPoA in particular was low, a representative from Vanuatu noted that one organisation in Vanuatu were aware of both the MDGs and BPoA, had integrated these in its development programs since their participation at the LDC III assembly in Brussels in 2001, and had even come up with a mechanism to measure progress. Doubt was shared that any other CSOs or NGOs in Vanuatu were doing the same and therefore, when it comes to reviewing these two international measures, community-based organisations (CBOs), CSOs, NGOs, the Church and faith groups (all of which are traditionally active) may not be ready and equipped to do so.

Some delegates questioned the nature of poverty in the Pacific, noting factors such as subsistence farming and the more limited reach of the monetised economy compared to other LDCs. It was therefore suggested that poverty in the Pacific may be different and that conventional forms of measuring poverty through income (or lack of) were not fully appropriate.

It was agreed that their aim is to eliminate the LDC label. They were determined to uphold Pacific cultural wisdom, values and heritage as their guiding stars during the elimination process and beyond. They reaffirmed that they cherish the natural wealth and resources derived from the universe, the ocean and the land that continue to sustain their well-being. CSO delegates reiterated that despite their remoteness and smallness in the world's largest ocean, they are People and States with dignity and valuable resources and expect the principles of respecting the integrity and identity of each Pacific island sovereign state when dealing with bilateral and multilateral partners. They unanimously called for renewed partnerships with their individual governments to take up leadership in initiating, collaborating and partnering with civil society as there is urgency for the state to restore its role as an effective and inclusive agent of development for its citizens.

## 5. Moving Forward through Regional Cooperation

### PORT VILA DECLARATION

Convened in Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu, parallel to the Pacific Islands Forum Summit from 3 – 6 August 2010, the Pacific Civil Society Assembly is part of the regional preparation towards the UN Global Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in New York in September 2010 and the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Istanbul in May 2011;

We acknowledge the organising of this Assembly by LDC Watch, in association with the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative of the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands States (UN OHRLLS);

We appreciate the special contribution by local hosts, the Vanuatu Association of Non Government Organizations (VANGO), the Vanuatu Indigenous Peoples Forum (VIP-Forum) and the participation of the Vanuatu Government in officiating the opening and the closing of the Assembly;

We acknowledge the participation of delegates from Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, defined by the United Nations as LDCs, and the participation of national and regional CBOs, CSOs and NGOs.

#### ***Our Guiding Stars...***

We affirm that our aim is to eliminate the LDC label;

- We uphold the cultural wisdom, values and heritage of our Pacific Islands, and shall use them as our guiding stars during the elimination process and beyond;
- We cherish the natural wealth and resources derived from the universe, the ocean, the land and diverse cultures that continue to sustain our wellbeing;
- We reiterate that despite our remoteness and smallness in the world's largest ocean, we are people and States with dignity and valuable resources;
- We expect the principles of respecting the integrity and identity of each Pacific Island sovereign State when dealing with bilateral and multilateral partners;
- We reaffirm that the global definition of poverty does not apply in Pacific context.

#### ***Defining our Unique Issues....***

We recognize that:

- Our priority needs are unique in the small islands context, and should always be addressed respectfully and appropriately in our own context, recognising the Pacific cultural value systems that have sustained our communities over centuries;
- Our small island states were defined as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) or "countries with special needs" by the former colonial administrators and the United Nations before the islands were returned as independent States;
- The LDC definition was based on a western concept of modern monetary income and special attention for assistance from developed countries;

- The definition which was genuinely accepted by our own governments at that point of time was a temporary measure, meant to assist the newly independent States in their transition to monetary self-sufficiency;
- Over the years, the LDC criteria have been redefined to the extent that what was meant to be a temporary measure, has led to a situation of comfort and aid dependency by our governments, often refusing to seriously consider graduating during a series of LDC review processes that occur every three years;
- Foreign aid has increased in proportion, intensifying both monetary and technical invasion, destabilising aid coordination, demoralising national human resource capacity, increasing corruption and diverting government attention away from national priority needs;
- During the last five decades (Samoa), four decades (Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands) and 3 decades (Vanuatu), foreign aid has been used to fund the administrative costs of governments and not for the delivery of services to the majority whose livelihoods depend on subsistence farming but are expected to pay in monetary terms;
- That LDC status and foreign aid has had more negative impact on states machineries, discouraging our governments from freely speaking out, and undermining our national sovereignty;
- Global warming, climate change, natural disasters and crisis are continuing threats to the Pacific islands' subsistence livelihoods.

#### ***Way Forward.....***

- We pledge our commitment first and foremost to achieving the priority needs of our people, which are obligatory for our family security, community sustenance and national development priorities;
- We demand that the United Nations in association with each of the five Pacific States conduct a nationwide referendum prior to 2015 for the citizens to determine their status as LDC;
- We call on our individual governments to take leadership in initiating, collaborating and partnering with civil society organisations and citizens, in the planning, implementation and achievements of national priorities and the BPoA, to accelerate the removal of the LDC label;
- We call on Pacific Islands governments to consult in particular with Traditional Leaders on the proper use of indigenous value systems and traditional knowledge, which could be used to achieve the MDGs/BPoA;
- We urge the Pacific Island governments to collectively ensure accelerated achievement of MDGs 1 – 8, by engaging citizens and civil society entities in monitoring the delivery of basic services throughout their communities;
- We commit ourselves as Pacific Islands civil society leaders, to engage actively in the upcoming national, regional and international review processes of the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs), including the UN Global Summit in New York in September 2010 and the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Istanbul in May 2011;
- We request governments of industrialised nations, who have seriously lagged behind on climate change commitments leading to our security threats, to step-up tangible action with urgency on MDG 7, ensuring environment sustainability at all times;

- We agree to establish a network of Pacific Star Watch with a focal point in each of our respective countries, to safeguard civil society involvement in the implementation, monitoring and review of regional and international agreements that are appropriate to Pacific islands communities.

### **Decisions: Pacific Civil Society Strategic Meeting**

A Pacific Civil Society Strategic Meeting held on 6 August 2010 made the following collective decisions with regard to following up work CSO engagement with the MDG and BPoA review processes:

- 1 The Pacific Civil Society Network will be known as "Pacific Star Watch".
- 2 Pacific CSOs will actively mobilise both at the regional and national level in order to defend LDC interests and campaign on the MDGs in Pacific LDCs, including contributing for the preparation of UN LDC IV and MDG Review Summit.
- 3 The following civil society organisations from the five Pacific LDCs shall be the focal points:

#### **Kiribati:**

- Kiribati Association of Non-Government Organisations (KANGO)
- Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati (AMAK)

**Samoa:** Samoa Umbrella for Non-Government Organisations (SUNGO)

**Solomon Islands:** Development Services Exchange (DSE)

**Tuvalu:** Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organisations (TANGO)

#### **Vanuatu:**

- Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organisations (VANGO)
  - Vanuatu Indigenous Peoples Forum (VIP-Forum)
- 4 Information on LDCs and MDGs should be communicated directly to focal points in each country.
  - 5 The Chair of the Pacific Civil Society Assembly, Hilda Lini, will continue temporarily as regional focal point until further notice.
  - 6 John Salong of VANWODS Microfinance will assist the Pacific Star Watch with the creation of LDC email network and website to facilitate access to information and communication.

### **Closing Speech: Minister Moana Carcasses Kalosil**

Minister Kalosil linked the Civil Society Assembly to the 2010 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Summit hosted by the Vanuatu Government, emphasising some of their common goals. He noted that the high quality of the assembly sessions was a sign that the Pacific countries give importance to LDC issues, and are determined to explore on their own and with relevant stakeholders, the possibilities to help overcome the common challenges. Such reflection could then lead to targeted and fruitful exchanges on the subjects in international forums.

Minister Kalosil congratulated everyone and highlighted that the challenges posed by the tight schedule of local leaders had been successfully overcome.

He thanked the participants, VANGO and the VIP-Forum for being local hosts of the event, and all others who used their time, efforts and capabilities to ensure a smooth and constructive meeting.

It was noted that this event reflected the healthy bilateral partnerships that exist between Vanuatu and each participating country, and the cooperation that exists between the countries, which is an asset to the Pacific LDCs and region as a whole. Though the particularities of each country are important and that groups should not be discouraged from continuing advocacy and lobbying on these issues, the Minister underlined that during the course of this conference, representatives from each country had the opportunity to give and receive inputs on some of the most important issues that the five LDCs share in common: Brussels Program of Action (BPoA) for LDCs and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG); Climate Change; and Fisheries. Armed with new knowledge and experiences gained during the week, participants could return to their respective countries and offices with new ideas and new ways to lead, inspire and inform as key leaders in their LDCs.

He underscored the importance of the region working together, and that the assembly offered the chance to strengthen personal and professional ties with counterparts across the Pacific LDCs, and to make new connections and friendships across frontiers for the purposes of learning and cooperation. Finally, Minister Kalosil challenged all delegates to be active in taking forward the principles and ideas discussed during the course of the assembly.

To close the assembly, **Chief Viraleo Boborenvanua** on behalf of the VIP-Forum and **Anthea Toka**, Secretary General of VANGO shared some closing remarks and presented a wooden walking stick to the representative from UN OHRLLS as a symbolic gesture to help find the path for the valuable role of civil society in the development of the Pacific Island LDCs.

# Annex I - Final Programme

## **Pacific Civil Society Assembly on LDCs/MDGs: Reviewing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) towards the MDG Summit and the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs (LDC IV)**

3 – 6 August 2010

### **Tuesday 3 August, 2.00pm : Official Opening Ceremony**

#### **Venue: Vanuatu National Provident Fund Conference Centre**

- Spiritual Devotion by Father Ephraim Mathias – Vanuatu Christian Council
- Introductory Remarks by the Chair
- Official Opening Address by Hon. Moana Carcasses Kalosil, Minister of Internal Affairs
- Message from Cheick Sidi Diarra, United Nations Under-Secretary General, Special Advisor on Africa, High Representative for the LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States delivered by Peter Kenilorea
- Remarks by Ambassador Aldo Dell'Ariceia, Head, EU Delegation to Vanuatu
- Remarks by Dr. Arjun Karki, LDC Watch International Secretariat
- Remarks by Agnes Ali, United Nations Millennium Campaigns and Advocacy
- Response by Chief Viraleo Boborenvanua, Chair, Vanuatu Indigenous Peoples Forum.
- Appreciation by Secretary General of VANGO

### **Wednesday 4 August: Country Presentations on civil society development models, programmes or strategies in relation to the Brussels Platform of Action and MDGs**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 8.00am   | Kiribati LDC/BPoA/MDG Review                     |
| 9.00am   | Samoa LDC/BPoA/MDG Review                        |
| 10.00am  | Morning Break                                    |
| 10.30 am | Solomon Islands LDC/BPoA/MDG Review              |
| 11.30am  | Tuvalu LDC/BPoA/MDG Review                       |
| 12.30pm  | Lunch Break                                      |
| 1.30pm   | Vanuatu LDC/BPoA/MDG Review                      |
| 2.30pm   | Remarks from the Regional CSOs/NGOs Spokesperson |
| 3.30pm   | Afternoon Break                                  |
| 4.00pm   | Proposals from the Floor                         |
| 5.00pm   | Closing of Day One                               |

**Thursday 5 August : Pacific LDC Analysis and Proposals**

- 8.00am Pacific LDCs Regional Analysis and Proposals by LDC Watch
- 9.00am Pacific Regional CSOs/NGOs Analysis and Proposals by a representative
- 10.00am Morning Break
- 10.30am Address by Mr. Minar Pimple, Acting Director, Millennium Development Campaigns, UNMC Office, New York.  
  
"UNMC partnership with Pacific LDC Civil Society in achieving the Goals and Objectives of the Brussels Platform of Action and the Millennium Development Goals"
- 11.30am Discussions
- 12.00pm Lunch Break
- 1. 00pm Presentation of the Draft Statement for discussions.
- 3. 00pm Adoption of the Statement
- 3.30pm Afternoon Break
- 4.00pm Presentation of Pacific CS Statement to the Minister of Internal Affairs, European Union and the UNMC.
- 4.30pm Official Closing of the Pacific Civil Society Assembly on LDCs/MDGs
- 5.00pm End of Day Two

**Friday 6 August: Pacific Civil Society Strategic Meeting**

- 8.00am Strengthening Pacific Civil Society Organisations and Networks to effectively address Critical Issues facing all levels and sectors of Pacific society. (Village/Community, National and Regional Levels; Civil Society, Government and Private Sector)
- 10.00am Morning Break
- 10.30am Formulate a comprehensive action plan towards the 2011 Civil Society Forum
- 12.00pm Lunch

## Annex II – List of Participants

### **KIRIBATI**

**David Teaabo**

Acting Executive Director, Kiribati Association of Non-Governmental Associations

**Moia Tetoa**

President, Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati (AMAK)

### **SAMOA**

**Alefosio Filipo**

Samoa Umbrella for Non Government Organisations (SUNGO)

**Moana Clarke**

President, Animal Protection Society of Samoa  
Secretary, SUNGO

### **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

**Dove Sale**

Honey Association

**Veronica Lafena**

Development Service Exchange

### **TUVALU**

**Semese Alefaio**

Tuvalu Climate Change Action Network, Tuvalu Association of Non Government Organisations (TANGO)

**Taoa Vaisua**

Tuvalu Fishermen Association

### **VANUATU**

**Viraleo Boborevanua**

Chairman, Vanuatu Indigenous Peoples Forum  
Guingatanvanua, Guiguinvanuatu Sovereignty  
Vanuatu Economic Model for Peace and Human Security

**John Salong**

Chief Executive Officer, VANWODS Microfinance

**Anthea Toka**

Secretary General, Vanuatu Association of Non Government Organisations

**Votausi Mackenzie Reur**

Private Sector Representative,  
Owner, Fiberglass Vanuatu and Lapita Café  
Women in Business Development

**Lora Napuati**

Wantok Media

**Father Ephraim Mathias**

Vanuatu Christian Council

**Pastor Allen Nafuki**

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

**Pastor Christopher Garu**

Churches of Christ

**Pastor Harry Tura**

Apostolic Church of Vanuatu

**Ann Carlo**

Bahai Community

**Chief Executive Officer, Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce**

**Pascal Tevi**

Huhugaituvwa Trust

**Morris Timataso**

Vanuatu Republican Party

**Maryanne Bani**

Vanuatu National Council of Women

**Henry Tavoa**

Vanuatu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee

**Evelyn Toa**

Media Association of Vanuatu

**Valua Gremson**

Vanuatu National Workers Union

**Ian Kalsuak**

Live and Learn

**David Stein, Nini Tamasui**

VAN REPA

**Pierrick Maltaos**

ACTIV

**International and Regional Organisations/Agencies**

**LDC Watch International Secretariat**

Dr Arjun Karki

International Coordinator

**LDC Watch Pacific Representative**

Motarilavao Hilda Lini

Public Relations Officer, Vanuatu Economic Model for Peace and Human Security

**Peter Kenilorea**

UN OHRLLS

**Minar Pimple**

Director, UN Millennium Campaign

**Kullayaphorn Jasmine Jaruphand**

UN Millennium Campaign,

**Agnes Ali**

UN Millennium Campaign Pacific Office,

**Eileen Kolma**

UN Millennium Campaign, Papua New Guinea

**Simon Boe**

World Vision

**Seni Nabou**

Political Advisor, Greenpeace

**Lagi Toribau**

Team Leader, Oceans

**Adam Wolfenden**

Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG)

**Barry Coates**

Executive Director, OXFAM New Zealand

**Apolosi Bose**

Amnesty International – Pacific

**Rebecca Emery**

Amnesty International – Pacific

**Hannah Harborow**

Amnesty International – Pacific

**Moses Stevens**

Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)

**Jimmy Naauna**

Kanaky

**Rex Rumakiek; Terri Hans; Jacob Rumbiak**

West Papua

**Diplomatic Missions**

**Ambassador Aldo Dell’Ariccia**

Head of Delegation of the European Union to Vanuatu

**Nicolas Martinez Belangar**

European Union Charge d’Affairs in Vanuatu

**EU Non State Actors Projects Representative**

**Dr John Ondowame**

West Papua Representative Office

**Ambassador Roy Micky Joy**

Vanuatu Permanent Representative to Belgium and Europe

**Sara Carley**

New Zealand High Commission Development Counsellor

**GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU**

**Moana Carcasses Kalosil**

Minister of Internal Affairs

**Ralph Regenvanu**

Member of Parliament for Port Vila

**Department of Trade Representatives**