



STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION



# PROJECT REPORT ENDING JUNE 2023

**To:** The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Pacific Office In Fiji

**Project:** The Un-Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UNPRAC) And Strengthening Anti-Corruption, Transparency And Accountability In Pacific Island Countries (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project)

**From:** The University of the South Pacific Students' Association (USPSA)

**Period:** 20 December 2022 To 15 June 2023

**Dated:** 15 June 2023







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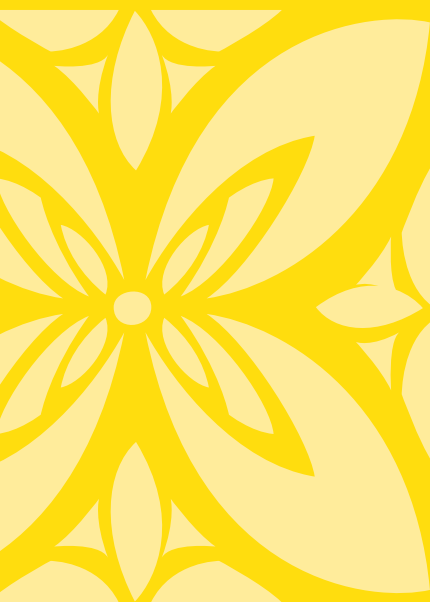






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# Part A





## 1. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

### 1.1 Component 1: The United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC)

The UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project funded by the Government of New Zealand, aimed to support Pacific Island countries (PICs) to strengthen their national integrity systems. The UN-PRAC Project is firmly anchored on two very important international initiatives, namely i) the UNCAC as the only international legally binding framework on how to prevent and fight corruption, and ii) the agenda 2030 (SDGs), specifically SDG 16 which calls for stronger action on anti-corruption, transparency, good governance and accountability.

Within UN-PRAC, one specific component deals with promoting anti-corruption and integrity among youth. Based on the Pacific Youth Summit organized in December 2021 where the focus was on sustainable development and business integrity, the partnership with USPSA of the USP aims to further scale up this initiative and involve Pacific youth in discussion on how they can contribute further to promotion of the Teieniwa Vision “Pacific Unity against Corruption Vision”, in cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS).







## Under Component 1, USPSA's deliverables & activities were:

- a. Organization and delivery of "Pacific Youth Summit: Stepping Up for a Corruption Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific", bringing together youth, student and community leaders for inter-generational and inter-regional dialogue on topics of values of integrity, anti-corruption, good governance and transparency and its role in building resilient and sustainable Pacific Communities. (Building up on 2021 Summit outcomes as well).
- b. The Pacific Youth Summit shall also incorporate dialogue and discussions on high level via a Panel Discussion, with a specific focus on the Teieniwa Vision from the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.
- c. Organization and delivery of advocacy and activism activities (Pre and Post Summit) such as panel discussions involving a diverse range of actors/stakeholders (students, women, youth, CSO's and regional organizations).
- d. The event needs to include UNDP representatives and experts as well and agenda to be discussed with UNDP prior to finalization. Consultations with UNDP to be organized for coordination on messaging and publicity. Objectivity, professionalism and impartiality need to be maintained in public communications. The summit will aim to bring high-level leadership from PIFS and potentially Heads of State/Prime Ministers to deliver messages from at least 1-2 countries.
- e. A USP workshop to be submitted for the IACC 2022 in cooperation with UNDP Pacific <https://www.transparency.org/en/press/international-anti-corruption-conference-iacc-2022-held-virtually-focus-sessions>
- f. An online survey among the students about what they learned and how they will take forward the anti-corruption agenda- focused on Teieniwa Vision.
- g. In consultation and coordination with PIFS, establishment of a Pacific Youth Advisory Board on Good Governance that will engage with a diverse range of actors/stakeholders (students, women, youth, CSO's and regional organizations) in promoting the Teieniwa vision and 2050 Pacific Strategy's Good Governance Theme with specific focus on advocacy for anti-corruption and right to information.
- h. USPSA to serve as Secretariat for the Youth Advisory Board.
- i. Organisation and delivery of the Youth Advisory Boards Launch.
- j. Building on the existing regional governance arrangements through young people to strengthen the regional architecture to support the 2050 Strategy and Teieniwa Vision in the context of the upcoming Youth Pacific Summit in October 2022 to be organized by USPSA planned under the LOA.
- k. Strengthen the inclusion and sustained involvement of NSA, media, academia, community, faith-based organizations together with the engagement of development partners to support the safeguarding of the Blue Pacific Continent -with focus on good governance, anti-corruption and right to information.
- l. Structured support and advocacy by the Pacific Youth Advisory Board towards the organization and delivery of "Pacific Youth Summit: Towards a Resilient Pacific Future", based on the outcome of the December 2021 Summit, where the focus was on sustainable development and business integrity

## 1.2 Component 2: The project ‘Strengthening anticorruption, transparency, accountability in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) (“Pacific Anti-Corruption Project”)

The project ‘Strengthening anti-corruption, transparency, accountability in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) (“Pacific Anti-Corruption Project”) aims to support institutions, systems, and mechanisms to function more efficiently and effectively to ensure that Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are able to better prevent and tackle corruption and improve implementation of the agenda 2030 and SDGs, with focus on SDG 16 targets. The project is funded by the Government of the United Kingdom.

To achieve these goals, one of the key areas of focus (output 2 of the project) is improved citizens’ access to information and strengthened oversight by non-state actors. The activities dialogue and discussion through engagement by non-state actors on advocacy and awareness about the values of open data and public information for development purposes.



### Under Component 2, USPSA’s deliverables & activities were:

- a. Awareness and advocacy campaign among USPSA students on the values of right to information and improved access to information in the Pacific.
- b. Organization and delivery of regional leader’s dialogue on right to information with panel discussions involving a diverse range of actors/stakeholders (students, women, youth, CSO’s and regional organizations), promoting the Teiniewa vision.
- c. Equipping students and youths with advocacy and activism tools via activism/creative advocacy.
- d. Mentoring of 2 Project Interns under this project
- e. Organization and delivery of the Pacific Conference on Governance on New Zealand
- f. National Anti-Corruption Strategy Consultations in Cook Islands, promoting the Youth Vision and mapping allies for the progress of the vision.
- g. Supporting the work/launch of the Pacific Youth Advisory Board



## 2. ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY 2023

### **The Pacific Regional Youth Seminar and UNCAC 20 Celebrations**

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is a landmark international anti-corruption treaty that was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2003, which in its subsequent twenty years has represented a global response in the stern battle against corruption. In the context of the Pacific region, corruption has been identified as the largest existential threat to sustainable development, good governance and peace and security. During the Pacific Youth Summit in 2022 (an event led by the University of the South Pacific's Students' Association (USPSA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) youths of the region convened to forge and endorse the Youth Vision for a Corruption- Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific.

To commemorate 20 years of UNCAC's existence and building on the anti-corruption youth movement in the Pacific, USPSA, in continued partnership with UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji with the funding from the Government of the United Kingdom, hosted a Regional Youth Anti-Corruption Seminar.





## a. Objectives

This event aimed to bring together Pacific youth leaders and change makers to continue the dialogue and unpack the Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific. This half-day event was dedicated to these change makers and future leaders to exchange ideas on ways in which the Youth Vision could be taken forward and achieved by 2050. By the conclusion of this event, participants were aware of the seriousness of corruption related issues hindering sustainable development in the blue Pacific across all spheres of development and had come up with specific proposals on taking the Youth Vision forward with concrete actions and steps anchored on partnerships and sustained policy dialogue with the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Community (SPC).

## b. Outcomes

The outcomes from the Regional Youth Seminar event were as follows:

- ◆ Successfully united future leaders from the Pacific region to understand the Youth Vision by unpacking it in unison.
- ◆ Empowered youths to have discussions and analyze the works of the upcoming Youth Advisory Board and its functions, while also deciphering ways in which the Board would aid in bridging the gaps between pacific youths and regional leaders.
- ◆ Expansion and engagement on matters of anti-corruption

## c. The President of Fiji's role during the Regional Youth Seminar

His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere officiated the event as Chief Guest and gave his remarks to all the attendees.

"His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, President of the Republic of Fiji while officiating the event, congratulated the University of the South Pacific and its Students' Association for continuing to advance the Good Governance agenda in the Pacific with youths from across the region. He stated that, "among the other important regional commitments is the Pacific Unity Against Corruption called the 'Teieniwa Vision' adopted by Fiji together with 17 other Pacific leaders from the Pacific Islands Forum. By committing to the implementation of the Vision, Fiji has reinforced its anti-corruption commitments and values of anti-corruption." (View the President's full speech on page 8)



## UNPACKING OF THE YOUTH VISION FOR A CORRUPTION-RESILIENT 2050 BLUE PACIFIC

Below are the outcome statements and action plans of the youths who converged to unpack the Youth Vision:

### Vision 1:

We, the youths of the Pacific, value the united vision of the Blue Pacific as reflected in foundational regional documents including the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy, the Teieniwa Vision (Pacific Unity against Corruption Vision) and the Boe Declaration on Regional Security.

According to group 1, young people are the future and if corruption and climate change issues are not addressed now, it will pose an even greater threat for them in the future. Youths are seen as examples of positive change makers and if they are given the opportunity to voice their opinions now, they will not only represent themselves rather they will also be setting an example for their younger generation. The youths of today are considered as energetic, creative, enthusiastic and passionate people who can take forward the action for anti-corruption. One of the major hindrances for a Corruption resilient Blue Pacific is Culture. When speaking of culture, our actions can become a problem for the elder generation who have been through this system of corruption and have accepted things as they are, however, with the youth movement towards anti-corruption, they may feel disrespected by the youths of today regardless of the fact that the change seen will be that of a positive future. Another hinderance is the abuse of power by officials in higher positions, because of which it is important to ensure that there is inclusive conversation before a decision is made for important matters in order to have transparency. Moreover, to value the united vision is to ensure that no one is left behind which means it should not have any barrier and must include all genders, people with disability and those from the LGBTQ+ communities.

Moving forward, the action that we youths can take for vision 1 is:

- ♦ Implementation of Bills to ensure that there is more stability in the system when making important decisions. To ensure that referendums process is followed so that everyone's voices are heard before a decision is made.



## Vision 2:

We recognize that the achievement of all Blue Pacific aspirations faces complex governance challenges, including corruption, which hinders sustainable development and threatens peace, security and stability.

We the youth of the Blue Pacific aspire and strives for economic development, economic stability, secured employment opportunity together with sustainable development. These aspirations change with different generations as follows:

### 1 year to 10 years

- ◆ Aspires to be loved, fed and presence of the parents is the most important during this phase.

### 11 years to 20 years

- ◆ Aspire to get primary and secondary education and move onto tertiary level to get a degree and look for better job opportunities.

### 21 years to 30 years

- ◆ Aspire to become parents, have a family of their own and be able to fully provide for the family's needs and wants.

Moreover, corruption is something that affects everyone regardless of their age. In the case of youth, we need to be more concerned about this issue because we have a much higher stake in the country, however, we also require the wisdom from the elder generation in this fight against corruption.

We as youths believe that this is an inclusive fight as corruption not only affects the youths but affects all ages. To ensure that this process is inclusive, we need to engage in intergenerational dialogue taking into consideration everyone's views so that we can strive towards a meaningful change in which all our priorities and aspirations are realized.





## Vision 3:

Concerned with increasingly intense climate-related disasters such as floods, droughts, hurricanes, heatwaves and wildfires. We emphasize the criticality of addressing corruption risks in climate change responses, including financing mechanisms, and promoting the principles of accountability, transparency and integrity.

As Pacific Youths our concern is more towards the climate area as we in the Pacific easily get affected by climate related disasters. The number one concern in the Pacific currently is the issue of sea level rise and tropical cyclones. As youths, we need to work together not only as a particular country rather as a whole Pacific Region to share ideas and build relationships through awareness. This fight against climate change and corruption needs to start with building the knowledge capacity and changing the carefree mindset that people have.

Moving forward, the action that we youths can take for vision 3 is:

- ◆ Create awareness in the various communities and educate everyone regarding the harmful effects of these issues.

Conclusively, if we as youths do not take any action now, in 50 years' time our own Pacific Countries may face the worst result of what we already are dealing with now. We need to work together to ensure that our future generation also has a Pacific that is safe from disasters and free of corruption.



## Vision 4:

Recalling past inter-generational wisdom and anchoring our voice on existing regional instruments and priorities, we commit to leading positive change to build a corruption-resilient Pacific where no one is left behind.

Past inter-generational wisdom encompasses knowledge, ideas, skills and experiences that are shared amongst generations. This wisdom has social, economic, cultural and political influence in people's lives. Passing knowledge to today's generation has become harder than it used to be, but there are ways to go about it. Below is a SWOT analysis that we as youths feel towards past inter-generational wisdom.

**Strengths:** we all know that the elder generation has a wealth of knowledge which can be used as a tool readily available for the younger generation. This wealth of knowledge that they possess can be used together with the views of the youths to come up with a better and inclusive solution in the fight against corruption.

**Weakness:** this knowledge can sometimes prove to be a disadvantage as at times the wisdom that the elders share may not ethically align with the education that the youths are currently getting. Some of the teachings of today's generation maybe things that have not been passed down from generations rather teachings of the promotion of sustainable development, which at times may not be accepted by the elder generations.

**Opportunity:** we the youths can use this youth movement as a platform to inform the elder generation on the issue of corruption together with the ways that the youths are trying to find solution for this issue. The Youth Vision can be used to disseminate the views that the youth have towards building a corruption resilient Pacific which will benefit people of all ages. Moreover, this should not only apply for the elder generation rather the youngest in the societies can also be educated on the key goals that this Youth Vision is trying to promote.

**Threats:** a major threat is on the traditional mindset that people have. This youth movement that we are passionate about for a corruption resilient Pacific may not sit well with people in traditional societies, as they will feel that youths are trying to change the lifestyle that they have maintained over the years because of which they will try and discourage others in societies to not follow such visions.



## Vision 5:

Our actions will include pioneering innovation and mobilizing our peers and communities working in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and other Council of Regional Organization agencies in the Pacific (CROP), and other strategic partners including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for ensuring coherent, sustainable and long-term results.

We believe that people in the Pacific are not self-centered rather we are more inclusive as a society and all our actions are supported by the entire society. To encourage pioneering innovations, we need to ensure that anti-corruption curriculum becomes more advanced with practical examples of current affairs in the Pacific region. We can also work towards enhancing the whistle-blower policies in the Pacific and introducing them in countries that still do not have them. Most importantly, we can enhance towards technologies that aid towards anti-corruption, for an example, software's such as forensics aid in companies.

To achieve this pioneering innovation, we need to ensure that there are more youth consultations and having advanced curriculum in the topic of anti-corruption. We the youths can also work towards having regional discussions with policy makers to ensure that not only one Pacific country will benefit from discussion rather the whole Pacific Region will be on the advantage side. With the involvement of CROP agencies and other Organizations, we can also request for increased funds which will be put towards these innovations as well as getting in experts who will better explain the issue.

## Vision 6:

Understanding our unique relationship with the ocean that unites us, and accepting our collective responsibility, duty and opportunity, we commit to continued collaborative work with each other, with our strategic partners, and with our leaders to create safe, open and inclusive spaces for constructive dialogue on good governance and anti-corruption.

We in the Pacific are blessed with abundance of resources from the ocean that surrounds us. We believe that we can create safe and constructive dialogue through more Talanoa sessions where we can address these issues and come up with solutions which are adaptive for all in the society. We need to understand that the issues of corruption and climate change are very serious and it is our duty and responsibility as youths to act upon it in order to have a corruption and climate change resilient future.

This duty begins with us as individuals to educate ourselves first on the topics so that we can become part of dialogues and express our views collaboratively in order to bring a change for the society as a whole. In this fight against corruption, the Youth Movement needs to be maintained and educated as we have seen how movements can make a change for the better, for example, the COP 26 and Climate Warriors. In working collaboratively, we need to ensure that we take into consideration every person and have their views heard in this matter as the issue of corruption and climate change is being faced by everyone, thus, no one should be left out in the discussion towards a resilient Blue Pacific. Communication is also a very vital aspect for this vision, as it will ensure that there is more transparency.





## Vision 7:

Reaffirming our responsibilities as the leaders of the next generation that will take the Blue Pacific into the future, and acknowledging the stewardship of our current leaders, we call on our stakeholders to work with us as collaborators and innovators to foster intergenerational solidarity, dialogue and partnership for a corruption and climate change-resilient Blue Pacific 2050.

With vision number 7, the main focus is on leadership. Some of the features of leadership that should be evident is accountability, responsibility, transparency, honesty and reliability. We the youth want our leaders to possess these features in order to better communicate with its people in terms of Democracy. Leaders are made by its people and they need to ensure that they associate themselves with people and policies that will be beneficial for the people and the country.

As youths, we believe that our current leaders need to be more transparent and expressive in terms of dialogue with its youths in order to have the view of the current generation heard as it may be beneficial to them in their decision-making as well as policy making process. We believe that the leaders in the Pacific are at times afraid to take the risk because of lack of resources. However, we are now at a crucial point with both our environment and our nation in terms of corruption that we require our leaders to work with us towards a Blue Pacific.

## Vision 8:

Accepting the transformational power of good governance for achieving the 2030 Agenda and all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we call on our leaders to acknowledge and integrate the voices of youth as equal partners in anti-corruption and good governance policy-making and action affecting our future.

This vision has a focus on transformational power of good governance. With a specific example of Kiribati, discussion is needed on the balance of youth involvement in the parliament towards promoting good governance. Decisions made in the Kiribati government is by the elders in the government without any discussion and consultation with the youths or anyone. To change the mindset of such leaders is a requirement in order to achieve the transformational power that we wish to see for a good government. Including youths in decision making should be considered an advantage as they bring to the table new and innovative ideas which can be beneficial in the policy making process.

## Vision 9:

Our commitment is to articulate, structure and amplify Pacific Youth voice on anti-corruption and good governance to shape our future by contributing positively to regional social, economic and environmental sustainability through policy dialogue and implementation action.

We the youth need to articulate, structure and amplify our voices if we wish to see a better Pacific. To articulate our voices can be done in a formal (through seminars) or informal (personal commitment - educating household member and friends when possible) way. To have a structure is ensuring that everyone gets involved. We can also amplify by way of policy making and ensuring that everyone is educated. We can individually contribute through self-development. As individuals we have principles of our own which we can use in this fight against corruption. We can have inclusive consultation sessions for a better understanding of the issues.



#### **d. CHALLENGES**

The Regional Youth Seminar was hailed as a successful event, by the organizers, CROP agencies, media outlets and those in attendance (which included youths, pacific leaders, etc.) yet there were some challenges and opportunities identified which should be taken into consideration for future events/seminars of similar nature.

##### **Challenges**

- ◆ Venue Availability; most events under the USPSA/UNDP banner have taken place at USP campuses in Fiji, but no space(s) was available for booking on campus, and many event centers/ conference spaces/ rooms, in other venues across Suva City were booked out making logistical preparations for the
- ◆ projects team a difficult and strenuous task.
- ◆ Unavailability or cancelation of few confirmed VIP/Guest of Honor(s), few days before the Seminar.
- ◆ Official Venue was booked only till 1PM as per its availability, so the Seminar proceedings had to be completed in a much shorter time than most USPSA/UNDP events.





# ANNEX

to Part A





## A REGIONAL PACIFIC YOUTH SEMINAR ON YOUTH VISION FOR A CORRUPTION-RESILIENT 2050 BLUE PACIFIC



Participants from across the Pacific with the President of the Republic of Fiji Ratu Wiliame M. Katonivere and the Vice-Chancellor & President Prof. Pal Ahluwalia

Read full background of the event here: [Final Agenda\\_6 April event](#)

## Converging Pacific Youth's Power for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption

**Suva, Fiji** – Young people in the Pacific have proposed an action plan on how they can bring about change in society building on the [Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific](#). They discussed strategies for gathering momentum for the Pacific youth anti-corruption movement through the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), the only legally binding global anti-corruption instrument, adopted by all Pacific countries.

At the regional seminar held on 6 April, at the Holiday Inn in Suva, the University of South Pacific Students' Association (USPSA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) co-hosted the event with support from the Government of the United Kingdom (UK), as 80 young change-makers from eight Pacific countries namely, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu discussed the next step(s) to contribute to good governance and sustainable development in the Pacific, turning the Youth Vision into action.



Participants while presenting their ideas on how they would implement the Youth Vision.

His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, President of the Republic of Fiji while officiating the event, congratulated the University of the South Pacific and its Students' Association for continuing to advance the Good Governance agenda in the Pacific with youths from across the region. He stated that, "among the other important regional commitments is the Pacific Unity Against Corruption called the 'Teieniwa Vision' adopted by Fiji together with 17 other Pacific leaders from the Pacific Islands Forum. By committing to the implementation of the Vision, Fiji has reinforced its anti-corruption commitments and values of anti-corruption."





His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, President of the Republic of Fiji delivering his official address.

Professor Pal Ahluwalia, USP Vice Chancellor & President, while welcoming everyone at the event, encouraged them to be fully aware of the seriousness of corruption related issues and that the good governance agenda needs to be championed. "I am proud to inform you all that our Student Association's Pacific anti-corruption initiative has informed and empowered a large number of educated and potentially influential young people regarding the impact of corruption on sustainable development, and how young people and other civil society groups can identify and combat it while also promoting the right to information as a powerful anti-corruption tool."





Professor Pal Ahluwalia, USP Vice Chancellor & President, while welcoming everyone at the event.

Recognizing corruption as the largest hinderance to sustainable development, good governance and peace and security, the [Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific](#) was developed and endorsed by Pacific youths during [the Pacific Youth Summit 2022](#) led by USPSA and UNDP. The Youth Vision reflects the youth commitment to shape their future and have their voice on good governance and anti-corruption heard in a structured and sustainable manner in close partnership with Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and other Council of Regional Organisation agencies in the Pacific (CROP) for ensuring coherent, sustainable and long-term results. [The Youth Vision inspired global practitioners](#) during the 20th International Anti-Corruption Conference held in Washington, D.C. in December 2022.

Ms. Tepola Lolohea, youth leader and Member of Youth Parliament of the Kingdom of Tonga, who took part in the Conference in 2022 stated, "The Pacific Youth Vision is our commitment to strengthen democratic and effective governance anchored in integrity and accountability in our Pacific Island countries. I confidently present our 'Vision' to global youth and leaders and

ask to work together on this very key issue for our sustainable future”.



UNDP’s anti-corruption work in the Pacific, with support from governments, is framed around the international, regional and national anti-corruption commitments including notably UNCAC and the Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encourages countries to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

His Excellency Dr Brian Jones, the British High Commissioner to Fiji said, “Corruption and poor governance rob young people of the resources to achieve their potential and to succeed. It is therefore vital that young people engage in anti-corruption efforts, to secure their bright future. I’m delighted that with our friends at USP and the United Nations we can continue to champion and support young people in the Pacific igniting the flame of curiosity and acting as a positive force in society, against corruption, and for good governance.”

Ms. Dawn Del Rio, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Resident Representative a.i. said, “By involving young people in the fight against corruption, we can build a more just and equitable society



that benefits all citizens, especially the most vulnerable, which is at the heart of UNDP's mandate."

The discussions will inform the work of the youth for good governance and the structured and institutionalized policy dialogue in the leadup to the Pacific Conference on Governance in May 2023 which will spotlight critical issues that need to be prioritized in anti-corruption, such as climate action and gender equality.



Also in attendance at the event was the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Mr Henry Puna and various heads of Pacific Island Countries diplomatic missions in Suva. The event is supported under the UNDP project, Strengthening Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Islands Countries (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project) funded by the UK Government.

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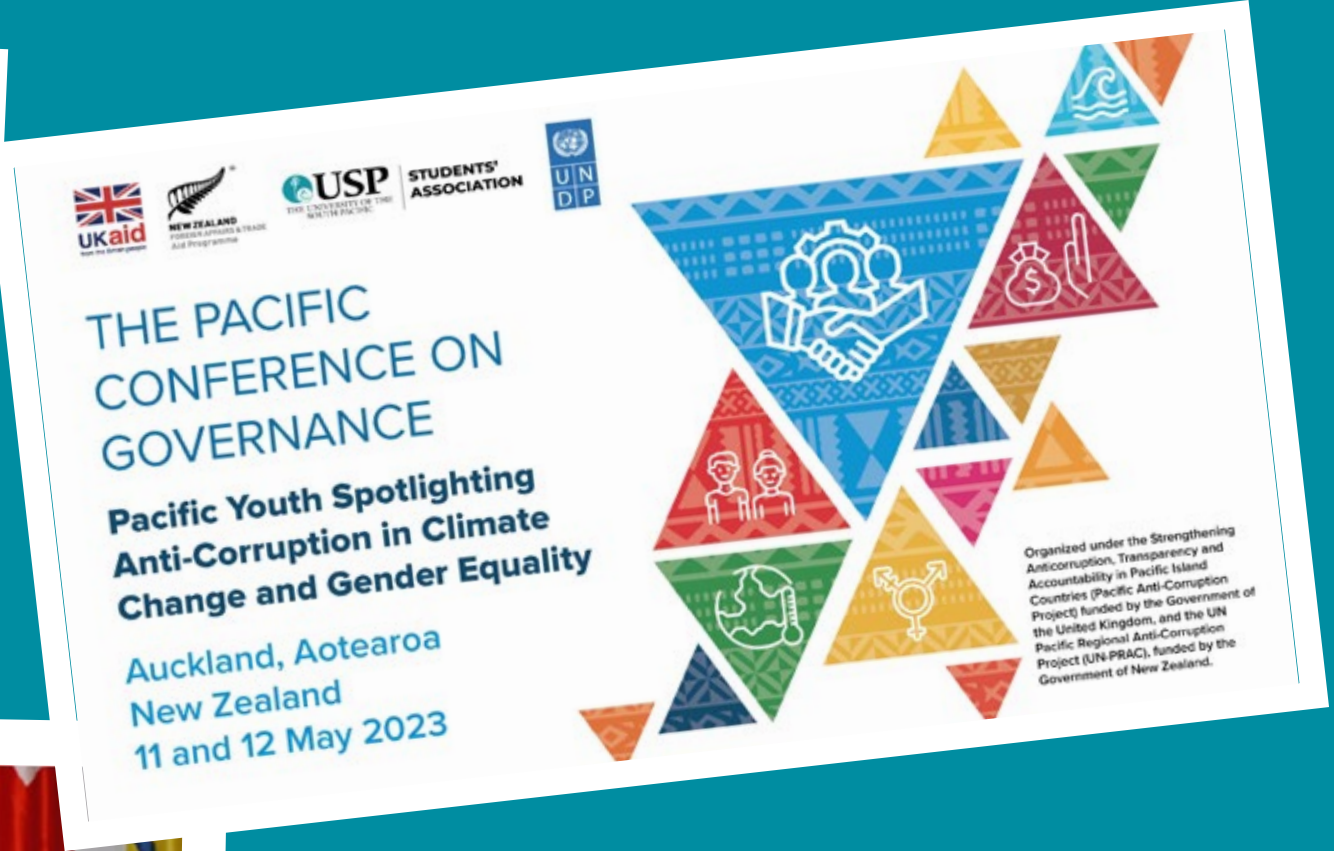
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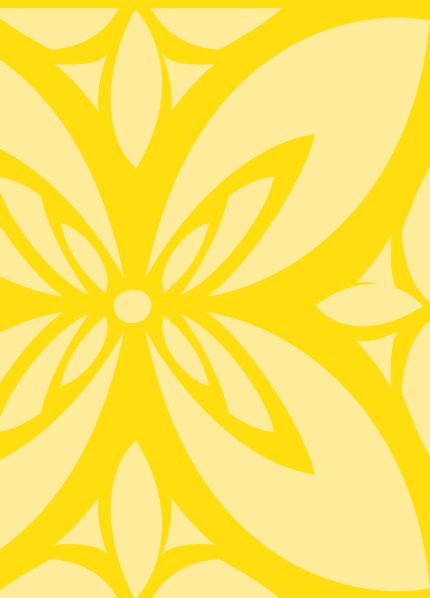


**UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji @UNDP\_Pacific · May 11**  
 By focusing on the [#SDG16](#) X [#SDG5](#) nexus, youth stand firmly in support of a gender-responsive approach to [#anticorruption](#) in the sustainable development efforts in the [#Pacific](#). The session was joined by NZ Ambassador for [#GenderEquality](#) HE Louisa Wall. [#PacificAct](#) [#UNPRAC](#)









## Part B

### THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON GOVERNANCE







## a. BACKGROUND

With half the Pacific region's population aged under 23, young people will affect every aspect of development in coming decades and winning the fight against corruption, which remains an issue of critical concern in the Pacific region, hindering sustainable development and threatening peace, security and stability, depends on harnessing this demographic dividend.

The Pacific Governance Conference titled 'Pacific Youth Spotlighting Anti-Corruption in Climate Change and Gender Equality' intended to build on the series of milestone developments under what had by now become an unprecedented youth anti-corruption movement led by the University of the South Pacific Students' Association (USPSA) in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Pacific Office in Fiji.

Namely, in 2021, the UNDP and the USPSA had established a strategic partnership with aims and special focus on advancing the international anti-corruption commitments such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, with these initiatives being anchored on regional policy documents such as the Teieniwa Vision – Pacific Unity against Corruption and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent among others.

USPSA's first major contribution to the regional anti-corruption policy dialogue with youth was the organization of the first Pacific Youth Summit in December 2021. The unprecedented hybrid online and in-person event was titled 'The Values of Integrity for the Achievement of Sustainable Development: Resilient Youth Leaders: Drivers of Sustainable Development'. It brought together over 5,000 youth leaders, students and professionals (60 percent female) from 12 Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) to discuss the importance of integrity and stronger youth action on anti-corruption, transparency and accountability towards progress on the sustainable development agenda. As well as directly engaging a significant number of young people from across the region, and being widely reported in the media, the Summit forged high-level partnerships, including with the members of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) such as Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Community (SPC). Subsequently, alongside continuing youth outreach via surveys, creative arts and workshops, USPSA organized the Pacific Regional Leaders Dialogue in May 2022.

That high-level event gathered face-to-face and virtually more than 835 political and business leaders, young people and civil society groups from across the Pacific region to discuss the benefits and applications of right to information (RTI) and generate ideas to strengthen good governance and fight corruption. The primary context was RTI's importance in regional social and economic development, specifically the SDGs, and the commitment made in 2021 by Pacific leaders to the Teieniwa Vision. Overall, the Dialogue was significant in developing the collaborative policy-orientated tone of the movement and advancing cooperation between government and non-governmental stakeholders, including academia, civil society, youth, women's groups and media organizations, through a whole-of-society approach. Capitalizing on these groundbreaking developments, and with the aim of inspiring further demand and articulating and enabling increasingly informed and determined anti corruption engagement, in October 2022 USPSA organized the second Pacific Youth Summit which was titled 'Stepping up for Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific'. The event aimed to further strengthen the youth integrity movement in the Pacific and reinforce the message that the young people of the region are committed to investing



in a corruption-free, environmentally and economically sustainable future for themselves and others. Yet again, the event had a hybrid format, combining in-person events at the University of the South Pacific with virtual participation at six USP campuses in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu and online access across the region via social media platforms.

It was prefaced by awareness-raising activities and followed by advocacy campaigns, activism via social media platforms, and action statements to reinforce the key messages and ensure high visibility across the region. Aside from attendance by high level political leaders and expert specialists, in-person and online participation engaged youth leaders, students, young professionals and media representatives from 12 Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).

With over 1,000 individuals attending (65 percent female), related social media outreach engaged over 20,000 people, and the event attracted significant media attention. One major outcome of the 2022 Pacific Youth Summit was the adoption of the Pacific Youth Vision on a Corruption-resilient 2050 Blue Pacific. The Vision demonstrated the clear demand from Pacific youth for a structured dialogue on good governance and anti-corruption, and further anchored youth ambitions in key regional strategic documents, including the Teieniwa Vision and the 2050 Pacific Strategy. The Summit, for the first time, brought together three major CROP agencies (USP, PIFS and SPC) to discuss and promote the anti-corruption and good governance agenda at highest levels. The presence of these agencies significantly boosted the influence of the youth anti-corruption movement and their recognition of the Vision demonstrated its policy impact. The Pacific Youth Summit is now expected to become an annual event and the Youth Vision is accepted as a formal representation of the voice of youths of the region.

The Youth Vision had enabled the ambitions of Pacific Youth to be presented to the world, as occurred during the Special Pacific Panel Discussion in Washington D.C. in December 2022 as part of the 20th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) organized by Transparency International. The Panel Discussion, organized by USPSA and UNDP, aimed to inspire and inform global youth on how to influence improved integrity and anti-corruption. It showcased the Pacific experience especially with regards to achieving progress on pressing global issues of particular relevance to the Pacific region including climate change and disaster risk reduction and shared learnings from the region on how young people can effectively access and influence policymakers to build a fair and sustainable future.



At the IACC 2022 event, the engagement and advocacy by USPSA culminated in Transparency International expressing interest for the Pacific Youth Vision to become a global youth vision to be adopted at the next IACC. The continued youth advocacy and increased demand for more structured and sustainable dialogue on anti-corruption, culminated with the establishment of a Youth Advisory Board on Good Governance based at USPSA.

The Advisory Board, that was formally launched in May of 2023 and would be affiliated to PIFS and work closely with other CROP agencies to further scale up and institutionalize the strategic youth engagement in support of the regional anti-corruption commitments under the Teieniwa Vision and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy. Engaging in a range of advocacy activities with a diverse set of stakeholders, including civil society groups, women, students, and other young people, with the aim of supporting and promoting well-functioning institutions with a high level of integrity, the Board would strengthen the inclusion and sustained involvement of non-state actors, including media, academic, community and faith-based organizations, and increase engagement of development partners to support the enhancement and safeguarding of transparency, accountability, integrity and anti-corruption across the Blue Pacific.

While structurally anchored at USPSA with an outreach to 50,000 youths across the Pacific, the Advisory Board intends to be as inclusive as possible to include other youth organizations, such as the Pacific Youth Councils, national universities in the Pacific and youth at large. Throughout all youth activities, USPSA has remained open to partnerships and participation and will continue to encourage specifically participation of young women. In summary, the USPSA Pacific anti-corruption initiative has informed and empowered a large number of educated and potentially influential young people regarding the impact corruption has on sustainable development, and how young people and other civil society groups can identify and combat it while also promoting the right to information as a powerful anti-corruption tool. Critically, the initiative as a result has connected young people both to the current regional political leadership and the wider community, empowering them to voice their anti-corruption concerns and advocate for action. The work has also empowered Pacific youth to engage positively in areas beyond right to information and anti-corruption. This has benefits for future political engagement particularly relating to sustainable development, gender equality and the climate crisis.





Focused on providing sustainable and inclusive platform for policy dialogue on anti-corruption, USPSA and the established Youth Advisory Board have committed themselves to continue directly engaging with policy makers, leaders and professionals around the 2050 Strategy and other regional commitments to identify and encourage long-term solutions for addressing corruption in critical areas for the Pacific. Capitalizing on these unprecedented developments, and with the aim of inspiring further demand and articulating and enabling increased, informed and positive anti-corruption engagement, the USPSA and the Youth Advisory Board organized the 2023 Pacific Conference on Governance – ‘Pacific Youth Spotighting Anti-Corruption in Climate Change and Gender Equality’.

The conference responded to continued interest and the determined calls of young people in the Blue Pacific, which identified the criticality of climate change and gender equality and the need for continued spotlighting of these issues in the priority policy anti-corruption dialogue in the region. The above activities and the conference were supported by UNDP under the Strengthening Anti- Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Islands Countries (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project) funded by the UK Government and UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project funded by the Government of New Zealand.

Spotlighting anti-corruption in climate change mitigation efforts and promoting gender equality Climate change and anti-corruption The Pacific region has always been especially vulnerable to climate change and lacked adaptation options. Rising only a few meters above sea level, and with much of the population living close to the shore, the increase in sea-level has always posed an existential threat to many Pacific Island Countries (PICs). With recent events dramatically demonstrating an increase in extreme weather such as tropical storms and cyclones, PICs are among the world's most vulnerable to natural disasters, and changes in rainfall patterns are having wide-ranging impacts on water supply, agricultural production, food security, and soil erosion. Likewise, threatened coral reef ecosystems are vital to all PICs, providing important fishing grounds and serving as one the biggest tourist attractions, another important source of revenue and employment. As elsewhere in the world, corruption negatively affects climate change responses undermining mitigation efforts and decreasing the quality of adaptation infrastructure in the Pacific. Although the successes or failures of climate change interventions rarely focus on governance issues, corruption threatens the related response. Climate finance, often routed outside established channels, is particularly vulnerable. With huge funding committed, and even greater sums required, the top recipients of climate finance are among the most corruption prone places in the world.





Regarding mitigation efforts, corruption weakens environmental regulations, reduces the effectiveness of clean energy programmes, and increases rates of deforestation. It can also prolong investments in non-renewable energy and enable corporate interests to influence individual politicians or governments to direct policy away from climate action. Regarding adaptation interventions, corruption and fraud reduce funds available for activities such as responsive infrastructure, water supply, soil conservation, or developing resistant crops, as well as causing biased allocation of funding or location and subsequent suboptimal responses and weakening regulatory enforcement of adaptive programmes. On the one hand, corruption has fueled the climate crisis by depriving countries of much-needed revenues to act on climate change and build resilience. On the other, climate impacts reinforce corruption by creating economic and social instability and inequality, fostering an environment more conducive to corruption and misuse of funds that ultimately deprive the poorest and hardest hit.

Overcoming corruption in the race against the climate crisis required collective action and bold partnerships between government, the private sector and civil society to recognize and combat the issue through more effective management of resources and programmes. Globally, and particularly in the Pacific region, appropriate and effective anti-corruption tools and strategies are required to ensure that climate change responses, including financing, are optimized for impact and success, and that such interventions are not undermined. With anti-corruption and climate response efforts entwined, synergies between them can strengthen policy decisions and legal frameworks in both domains and tailored approaches need to be sought to fit national and regional contexts. Gender equality and anti-corruption Corruption disproportionately impacts the poor and vulnerable especially women, who represent a higher share of the poor. Gender inequality exacerbates corruption risks that ultimately disproportionately affect women and vulnerable groups of society.<sup>1</sup> Corruption affects access to the basic services such as for example health and education.

As women are often the primary caretaker of the family, they are therefore in more frequent contact with potentially corrupt health and education facilities. It is also because women (particularly poor women) may be more dependent on essential services provided by the public service, which increases their vulnerability to corruption. Corruption can also exacerbate existing inequalities reflected in practices that either privilege or target certain groups. The currency of corruption for women can also be sexualized, as women and girls are more likely than men to be asked to pay bribes in the form of sexual favors, particularly when they are unable to pay money as a bribe due to lower incomes<sup>2</sup>.

Women may also experience inequality when it comes to reporting corruption when it has taken place, due to unconscious bias in reporting mechanisms. While reporting mechanisms for seeking redress are accessible to both males and females, more males than females utilize these reporting mechanisms. For example, a report by the Asian Development Bank documented that in 2014, 12% of the complaints to the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) were from women, while 88% came from men. The report recommended providing women friendly consumer complaints mechanisms, such as having women complaints officers and incorporating online anonymous complaint processes, to ensure that both men and women have equal access. These considerations are also important in the context of the sustainable development efforts in the Pacific under 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy and understanding corruption's linkages to gender equality as part of the gender dimensions of democratic governance. While the issue is complex, a gender-responsive approach to anticorruption efforts can increase the awareness of women regarding their rights and improve women's contribution towards achieving inclusive results. For this reason, recognizing that corruption affects men and women differently, and that anti-corruption and gender equality efforts are mutually reinforcing, the youth of the Pacific would like to open a dialogue on the specific challenges and opportunities to strengthen future policy decisions and help in designing more targeted actions for advancement of women's rights and women's empowerment in the fight against corruption.



## b. OBJECTIVES

The Pacific Conference on Governance fundamentally had the following objectives:

- ◆ Raising awareness: Through the lens of the regional policy commitments, the conference aided in raising awareness about the specific challenges, opportunities and solutions to addressing corruption challenges in the Pacific in relation to climate change mitigation and promoting gender equality
- ◆ Facilitating knowledge-sharing: The conference helped to provide a platform for youth, policy makers, experts, researchers, and practitioners to gain better understanding and share knowledge and best practices on how to achieve progress in the fight against corruption to improve climate change mitigation and gender equality outcomes
- ◆ Developing innovative solutions: The conference fostered collaboration and innovation among stakeholders from different sectors to discuss new ideas and effective solutions to addressing corruption in climate change efforts, and ways for addressing the nexus between gender inequality and corruption.
- ◆ Advocating for policy change: The conference advocated for policy change at national and regional levels to promote transparency, accountability, integrity and anti-corruption in climate finance, and strengthening gender responsive anti-corruption measures.
- ◆ Promoting women's leadership: The conference assisted in highlighting the importance of promoting women's leadership in anti-corruption efforts and decision-making processes and explore ways to address the gender gap in leadership positions in the public and private sectors.
- ◆ Youth empowerment and furthering Pacific youth unity against corruption: The conference aided in further empowering young people, civil society representatives and community groups to engage with decision-makers and build partnerships among stakeholders from different sectors, including government, civil society, private sector, and international organizations, for inclusion of the youth voice in coordinated Pacific anti-corruption action.



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ◆ Empowered youth and marginalized groups to access policy spaces in national and regional fora and wider recognition and support for the next steps and actions in implementation of the Pacific Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific facilitated by the Youth Advisory Board in coordination and cooperation with CROP agencies, PIFS and SPC in particular.
- ◆ Enhanced cooperation and collaboration between youth, regional organizations, Governments and non-governmental stakeholders through a whole-of-society approach (academia, civil society, youth, women's groups, media etc.) regarding promotion of the benefits of combating corruption and promoting good governance for achievement of the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.
- ◆ The conference identified creative and innovative solutions and next steps and actions in implementation of the Pacific Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific facilitated by the Youth Advisory Board in coordination and cooperation with CROP agencies, PIFS and SPC in particular.

## WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY



### c. WELCOMING AND NETWORKING EVENT

- ◆ Prof. Pal Ahluwalia officially opened the Pacific Conference on Governance during a cocktail event held the conference venue Ballroom.
- ◆ Conference participants, CROP agency members, Diplomats, Heads of Missions from various Pacific Islands countries, among others were present during the cocktail, and used this opportunity to network, and converse on the upcoming Conference and other issues of concerns in the pacific.





## **d. DAY 1 - THURSDAY 11 MAY (GRAND MILLENNIUM HOTEL)**

The first day of the Conference began at 8.30AM with registrations of participants and the official opening session, which saw the arrival of the Hon. Nanaia Mahuta, New Zealand's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control and Associate Minister for Māori Development.

The morning session saw the welcoming and garlanding of the Chief Guest, a performance by the Anuanua Performing Arts Troupe, and addresses by Hon. Mahuta, Prof. Pal Ahluwalia, Mr. Stephen Cartwright, Consul General, British Consulate Auckland, Ms. Yemesrach Workie, UNDP Pacific in Fiji Deputy Resident Representative, Mr. Henry Puna, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and Ms. Belyndar Rikimani, Pacific Youth Advisory board member.

**Mr. Cartwright congratulated all Pacific Youths for their critical and impactful initiative and the regional leaders for their positive responses to it. He further stated**



The UK is delighted to support the creation of the Pacific Youth Advisory Board on Governance, which demonstrates the important role young people have in fostering Pacific cooperation. The UK is committed to supporting youth engagement and to collaborate with like-minded partners in fostering a whole of society approach to Pacific regionalism. We envisage that through initiating this conversation, more innovative contributions will be made throughout the coming days to ensure Pacific Island Countries are better equipped to prevent and tackle corruption in all its forms.



**Hon. Mahuta applauded the USPSA for raising the voices of the region and rallying them to act. The Hon. Minister said,**



Everyone has a role to play in reducing corruption, tackling climate change, and promoting gender equality. I urge us all to work together, and to redouble our collective efforts" while also mentioning the partnership that the New Zealand Government has with the UNDP stating "Working in partnership with UNDP, the Government of New Zealand is pleased to support this initiative and others across the Pacific aimed at fighting corruption and delivering good governance for the benefit o all citizens. Today's youth are the citizens – and the leaders – of the future, and it is heartening to see their determination not to leave things at chance, but to share the responsibility and proactively contribute to advancing the good governance and anti- corruption agenda in the Pacific.







## e. PLENARY SESSION (OUTCOMES FROM EACH SESSIONS)

### The Corruption and Climate Change: Challenges and opportunities for the Blue Pacific

The Plenary Session took place with a host of speakers, namely:

1. **Professor Elisabeth Holland**, Professor of Ocean and Climate Change and the Director of the Pacific Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD) at the University of the South Pacific (USP)
2. **Mr. Anga Timilsina**, UNDP Global Anti-Corruption Advisor, Oslo Governance Centre
3. **Ms. Salanieta Kitoleilei**, Indigenous Fijian Doctoral Candidate at the University of the South Pacific.
4. **Ms. Belyndar Rikimani**, Climate Change Youth Activist from the Solomon Islands Ambassador of One Young World.

With Hon. Simon Kofe, Minister for Justice, Communications, setting the Scene, and Mr. David Vaeafe, Executive Director at Pacific Cooperation Foundation leading as the Facilitator during the session.

This session primarily lay its focus on outlining how anti-corruption and effective climate change responses are related and explored the synergies of climate change related events and its impact on Pacific Communities. Hon. Simon Kofe set the scene by commenting on the intersection that lies in climate change and corruption, which has been complex and a pressing issue that needs attention of the policy makers of the region, civil society members and the people of the pacific.

Hon. Kofe stated



Corruption undermines the efforts to address climate change while the impact of climate change also creates conditions for corruption to thrive. Corruption occurring in the context of climate change can manifest in ways of bribery, embezzlement, abuse of power and conflicts of interest. These ways of corruption erode the effectiveness in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts by diverting the funds, distorting policies and weakening government systems.



Hon. Kofe echoed the importance of events like the Governance Conference as these events promotes and advocates for Sustainable Development, as well strengthening institutions and fostering accountability and transparency.

**Professor Holland** reiterated the importance of how the youths can create pacific values and cultures which will provide guidance for themselves as leaders in the decades to come while also announcing a call for the Journal of South Pacific Law, for a special issue at the Ocean Climate Nexuses this year, which explores that ethics, loss and damages and how we the people in the Pacific can make a just transition into a fossil fuel free Pacific.

In thinking about how the Pacific Region can gather together to discuss these issues, Prof. Holland mentioned the importance of having the ethical values and wisdom instilled in the elders to be passed to the younger generation quickly, so that they will move forwards trying to find solutions to these issues and challenges.

**Mr. Anga Timilsina** during his remarks in the Plenary stated the defining issue the pacific region is facing, and that is climate change, and its further compounded by corruption which halts any progress in combatting climate change. Mr. Timilsina added “If Corruption in climate action, also known as green corruption, is not effectively addressed, it will severely affect us in our adaptation ability and mitigation efforts. It is a known fact that corruption and climate change reinforce each other. Corruption fuels climate crisis by depriving countries of revenues and significantly in the development and allocation of the country’s resources. On the other hand, climate reinforces corruption in collapsing instability, inequality and fostering an environment that is more conducive for corruption”

Few recommendations provided towards this plenary by Mr. Timilsina were;

- ◆ The requirement for greater transparency and accountability in the use and management of climate finance.
- ◆ In the climate change agenda, fighting corruption is not only about money. It is also about structuring institutions and restoring hope for the future.
- ◆ The need to continue leveraging voice mechanisms for keeping up with accountability is much needed for effective and meaningful participation of youths which will influence policy makers in becoming more accountable in our efforts for climate actions.
- ◆ The private sector has a key role in this fight for climate actions with its support in business integrity and human rights standards.

Mr. Timilsina closed the discussions by emphasizing the need to break the silence to tackle the interlinkage crisis of corruption and climate change. He emphasized having continued advocacy at the country level and moving across globally then internationally to ensure that our voices are heard, and our issues get answers.



**Ms. Kitoleilei** shared the idea of knowing when to draw the line. This is something that can be of help towards good governance across the Pacific which meant that focusing on corruption alone will not help to solve the issues, where corruption can be avoided if we instill the value of honesty within the youths of today and the generations coming in. Honesty is something that every culture in the Pacific has, it is something that every individual is taught at home as a value. It then becomes the responsibility of every individual to take advantage of the values that we have in the Pacific which are, firstly, our traditional and indigenous knowledge and the second is the understanding that people in the Pacific have regarding the roles they play.

For example, during times of disasters, the first responders are the people around and not any other organization. In her concluding remarks on good governance, Ms. Kitoleilei stated that good governance comes with leaders who are able to inspire and leave behind legacy with good practices that can be continued with by the next generation.

**Ms. Belyndar Rikimani** highlighted the importance on educating the younger generations on climate change so that they may be equipped with tools and knowledge to overcome the issue of climate change. The Youth Advisory Board Member reminded youths who always ask for a place at the table where decisions and policies are made, that WE have been given the opportunity and platform to do, so we need to make the most of this opportunity.

After the Plenary Session, a session on Dialogue with Pacific Youth took place.





## CLIMATE ACTION DIALOGUE WITH PACIFIC YOUTHS: EFFORTS AND CHALLENGES

### Will Corruption break climate change response efforts and what can be done by youth?

Co-chairs, Mr. Aholotu Palu, the Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Catastrophe Insurance Company and Ms. Minnie Kalo Voi, a Youth Activist and Advocate- Papua New Guinea and the Cook Islands delivered remarks during this session

H.E Mr. Eliam Tangirongo, the High Commissioner of the Solomon Islands to New Zealand summed up the session.

**Mr. Palu** highlighted the nexus that lays between climate change and corruption by categorizing the linkages that exists in the 3 specific areas which he laid out as follows;

1. Delivery
2. Scaling Up
3. Partnership

Mr. Palu reminded the participants to be more practical in their ways of thinking, moving forward on all points of discussions., and when it comes to climate change, there are three areas that was recognized by individuals, with these being the signs, second being the negotiation and lastly, the finance. "As an individual nation, we are too small to make our voices be heard, which is why it is very important to work collectively as a Pacific Region in this fight against climate change as well as corruption. And working collectively as a region, we need to ensure that we include the youths in decision making as they are the future generation." Mr. Aholotu Palu, highlighted the importance of engaging youth participation in regional policy dialogues and empowering them to take leadership roles within their respective communities to combat the profound challenges posed by climate change. There will, without a doubt, be new perspectives, innovative ideas, and the energy to push for transformative changes, shape policies, and create a sense of ownership, empowerment, and self-determination

**Ms. Kalo**, in her remarks lay focus on two points,

1. Having a change of mindset is a must for a positive way forward. Youths have also wanted inclusiveness for the longest time and now with a platform like the Pacific Governance Conference, youth have been provided with the inclusiveness they wanted. This platform has given them the opportunity to have a seat together with the current leaders and discuss issues that are posing a threat to their future.
2. As youths, we are already inspired, what we need now is to be empowered through resourcing and having those in power currently to give a chance to the youths to make a better change not only for the current generation but also for the future.

**H.E, Mr. Eliam Tangirongo** while summing up the session, encouraged all the participants to give a thought on all discussion and decide in which direction they wish to move forward, in this fight against corruption and climate change. He highlighted that now since everyone is aware of the issues, partnerships should be formed by all those facing these same issues so that our voices reach across on a greater scale. He further mentioned, that with partnerships, there will be more resources, more discussions and more ideas formulating to address these very issues.





## PLENARY SESSION 2

### How are corruption and gender related?

This session had the following speakers;

1. **H.E Louisa Wall**, Ambassador for Gender Equality (Pacific)/Tuia Tangata.
2. **Ms. Elizabeth Kite**, Founder of Take the Lead Tonga and She Leads Parliament, Kingdom of Tonga.
3. **Ms. Irene Olkeriil**, Founder of Palau Entrepreneurs of Growth.
4. **Ms. Mariam Mathew**, Transparency Intentional Pacific.
5. **Ms. Sonja Stefanovska-Trajanoska**, UNDP Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser.
6. **Dr. Gerardo Berthin**, Vice-President of International Programs, Freedom House, Washington D.C.

This Plenary session focused on outlining how anti-corruption and gender equality are related and explored the synergies that can be developed and exploited to address these issues holistically. The session also spotlighted the seriousness of climate change related events and its impact on Pacific communities. Fiji's Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, **Hon. Lynda Tabuya** set the scene for the plenary by outlining the close relation that exists between Gender and Corruption. Hon. Tabuya stated

“Women are often seen as the worst victims of corruption as women are more susceptible to economic and social exclusion. Women’s civil rights are frequently violated, and they are often treated unfairly by the law. Girls, women, and other minorities are severely impacted in societies where the legal system is dishonest when it comes to issues like marriage, divorce, child custody, financial independence, access to land, property rights, domestic abuse, human trafficking, and accusations of adultery and rape, among other things”

and these continue to be a hindrance to development, justice and social stability in the region for women and children.

In her concluding remarks, Hon. Tabuya called upon her fellow leaders across the region, please join the youth movements, and work together to ensure that gender equality is present in all forms of governance!

**H.E Louisa Wall** began her remarks during the plenary by acknowledging that corruption does in fact disproportionately affect women. H.E further stated that the Transparency International definition of corruption, which states that corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, which usually happens amongst government officials, elected officials, private and public business leaders as well as those that are involved in law enforcement. This all goes back to colonization, whereby the role of women was diminished, and men were invested with power. With this, if we do need to become equal, we need to decolonize ourselves with the thought of diminishing women and giving them the same power, that men have had since generations. Concluding her remarks, H.E mentioned that in this fight against corruption, it is important to have women involved just as much as men so that we can fight together for a better 2050 Blue Pacific.



Tongan Youth Activist and founder of Take the Lead Tonga And She Leads Parliament, Kingdom of Tonga, **Ms. Elizabeth Kite** shared her experience and work that she has done in Tonga in order to give women a voice and a credible standing in the society through her initiatives. Ms. Kite sighted many challenges in the pursuit of seeking equality for women, with corruption being one of them. She explained “Data shows that women particularly younger women experience corruption differently than that of others which is mostly because of power and the types of leadership. Regardless of the challenges, the “Take the Lead” team tries to educate young Tongans and separately young women as well on what corruption is and the negative impact it can have on individuals. The most surprising thing that the team came across was how little the adults in the Tongan society knew about corruption and inequality, which places them in a very vulnerable situation.” Ms. Kite mentioned that to tackle these issues, we need to go back to our grassroots and ask ourselves what our values and principles are.

From Transparency International, **Ms. Mariam Mathew** revealed that there is very little data available on corruption, which prompted her team to conduct a survey on corruption, known as “Global Corruption Barometer”.



Ms. Mathew and team have now begun with a gender analysis of the findings which will be launched as a report at the end of 2023. Some of the findings from the survey showed:

- ◆ Women across the region believe that corruption is a problem especially in governments.
- ◆ Acts of bribery is at its peak with regards to women, especially in the education systems and receiving specific services.
- ◆ Reporting of bribery is believed to be very low particularly in urban women who are thought to have an open mindset.
- ◆ There is an increase in sexual extortion in exchange for public services, with highest numbers coming from PNG, Solomon Islands and FSM.
- ◆ In terms of women's perception on corruption, the following findings were seen:
- ◆ Some women believe that governments are not doing a good job in dealing with the issue of corruption.
- ◆ A minority of women believe that the lower chunk of the group can make a difference if given the opportunity.
- ◆ The views of the women are not considered in policy making and other practices.



Ms. Mathew concluded her remarks by reminding women that now they have a platform where they can voice their opinions and this needs to be made use of.

UNDP Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser **Ms. Sonja Trajanoska** added more thoughts to the discussion regarding gender inequality and its relationship with corruption where she stated how both men and women are differently affected by corruption and how gender inequality exacerbates corruption. She mentioned how this ultimately leads to vulnerable women that we have in our societies whose mindset it is very important to change. Ms. Trajanoska further stated “In light of the ongoing efforts pervasive gender inequality remains a barrier to progress justice and stability in the Pacific”, and she spotlighted how in the fight against corruption, sustainable development is very much linked.

Ms. Trajanoska mentioned three reasons why corruption affects women differently, which are as follows:

1. are more likely to access services that will require bribery, for example, in the health and education sector.
2. Women end up paying more bribes as a result of gender stereotypes, gender trolls and gender division, for example, women are seen as passive and made to pay more bribes.
3. Abuse of authority by requesting or offering sexual services, whereby the perpetrator, usually a man demands or accepts acts of sexual nature in exchange of authority.

Concluding her remarks, Ms. Trajanoska encouraged everyone to work together in this initiative in the fight against corruption.

**Dr. Gerardo Berthin** gave his remarks during the plenary session via zoom where he spotlighted 4 highly important points, these were as follows;

- ◆ 20 years ago, the way in which these issues were looked at was very different from how it is now. The shift is seen in how people are now openly addressing the issue of gender equality and how corruption is affecting it. Corruption and gender discrimination share the same dynamics, because of which it is important to understand the asymmetrical use of power it has with it in the decision-making process.
- ◆ Through more research it has been made clear that corruption is a product of systems and networks and in each particular context, the systems and networks produce themselves in different ways. It is important that we understand as to how corruption affects gender or in other words gender gets affected by corruption.
- ◆ Women participation in politics is also a big factor in this topic. There is a need for more data and survey in order to find out where the real issue lies to be able to solve the issue. Women participation make democratic institutions stronger. It is also a fact that when women are part of the legal side of decisions, the control of corruption is strengthened. Countries with low participation of women in parliament, are countries that have high levels of corruptions.
- ◆ With gender being an issue in corruption, we can also look into other matters like race, culture and tradition to see how corruption works in those situations.

Participants took to raising their queries to the panelist with their questions, with questions on how constitutionally can the issues of corruption be addressed and the tools that will enable this being the most asked. The speakers gave their respective responses which were as follows;

- ◆ Whistleblower reporting can be used as a tool by institutions where they feel, an act of corruption is taking place.
- ◆ Reporting mechanisms need to be strengthened in institutions to better handle issues as they occur





- ◆ Promotion of inclusiveness. It is important to include everyone in societies and communities when making important policies and decisions.
- ◆ Upholding the good governance practices in the public sector for transparency and accountability.
- ◆ Addressing the value of women at rural and urban sectors is an import step towards achieving inclusiveness.
- ◆ Have constitutional changes that requires the inclusion of women in decision making policies.
- ◆ Conducting more educational programs in schools in topics of corruption and gender equality. Teaching students from the grassroots is very important to ensure that they will be able to understand the issues growing up and will take back to their communities the good values.
- ◆ Community outreach to close the gap between what happens in the local and international levels. It is important that people are educated more so that they will be able to be a part of the discussions.
- ◆ Advance on the advocacy and legal clinics, which gives professional advice on issues of corruption.
- ◆ Media can be used as a tool to combat the issue of corruption.





## WORKSHOP 1

### **The Role of Education in advancing good governance and gender equality in the Pacific.**



Mr. Henry Puna, the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum set the scene, and this session was led by PIF's.

The Discussions were led by Mr. Penisoni Naupoto from the Pacific Islands Forum, who focused on the 2050 strategy.

The 2050 Strategy sets out a long-term approach to working together as a region, with the starting point being the leader's vision for the region. With this workshop focusing on education and its role in advancing good governance and gender equality, the outcomes that were achieved during the session would be used as part of the Pacific Island's Forum 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan. Mr. Naupoto encouraged youths and individuals present to openly share their opinions and views in relation to good governance and call out for room for improvement.

In terms of next steps: Mr. Naupoto stated a number of activities are now in motion and the first phase of implementation has already been planned. Another significant piece of work will be a review of the regional architecture. The review will be done to ensure that there are governance and resourcing mechanisms to have a collective responsibility and accountability to deliver the 2050 strategy for Blue Pacific.

The Group Discussion session saw the participants sub-divided into groups of two, with group 1 engaging in dialogue on



#### **1. The role of education in advancing good governance**

Some suggestions provided through the group discussions are as follows:

- ◆ Much focus needs to be on value-based education, such as honesty, integrity and what good governance actually looks like.
- ◆ Education for good governance should start at a very young age and this needs to begin at the home level whereby the elders of the family instill good values into their children so that growing up they will know what is right and what is wrong.
- ◆ Some other values discussed was taking a more unconventional approach when disseminating this sort of information.

- ◆ Re-educating children as they get older on the same values and principles is very important as it will remind the youths of the roles that they need to play to ensure that the teaching of good governance is followed and continued.
- ◆ Platforms like the conference can be used at a global level to put pressure on the leaders for our demands to be heard.
- ◆ The accountability mechanism is in place, not nationally but at the regional level, needs to be strengthened in order to keep our leaders on their go when need be.

Group 2 discussed;

## 2. The role of education in advancing gender equality

Some suggestions provided through the group discussions are as follows:

- ◆ It is important to change the mentality of the people with regards to gender equality. Every person needs to be treated equally and that is something that every individual needs to set in their minds.
- ◆ A regional curriculum needs to be developed which will include gender equality as one of the key aspects. When creating such a curriculum, it is important to include the voices of the youths as well.
- ◆ Creating awareness from a very young age is necessary to encourage the younger generation not to differentiate between gender and the roles and responsibilities that comes with it.
- ◆ A safe space needs to be created for the vulnerable people in our societies so that they will be able to openly share their concerns and most of the time this vulnerable people are women.







## WORKSHOP 2

### **The role of youth in fighting corruption towards advancing the 2050 Strategy and other anti-corruption instruments. The need for an integrated approach in the Pacific in the fight against corruption.**

This session was led by Integrity Fiji with Pacific Chapters of Transparency International who outlined the objectives and outcomes of the Workshops.

#### **Objective(s)**

1. Understanding the importance of youth participation in the fight against corruption?
2. Having a shared commitment towards Anti-Corruption in advancing the 2050 Strategy?

#### **Expected Outcome(s)**

1. Strengthening youths in understanding and in being committed to fighting corruption in the region.
2. The workshop then saw the participants being divided into two groups, with one consisting of all the current leaders and the second group consisting of all the youths.

Groups embarked on a journey with each other to highlight some issues of corruption that are faced in the region, with the outcomes to these discussions as follows:

- ◆ Whistleblowing > as youths it becomes very difficult to act as a whistleblower because youths are always underestimated. People tend to mostly look down on the youths. Providing example of Tonga, it was stated that when a youth tries to expose a wrong deed, they are told that they are too young and need to do things that young people are to do which is studies and enjoy life. In addition to this, accessibility to information is very hard for youth, especially for those that are not privileged enough, are staying in rural areas or are not financially stable.
- ◆ The issue of nepotism is also one that is very common in most Pacific Island countries. People in power tend to give more attention and advantages to their own family members, be it with scholarships, work or any other sort of privilege.
- ◆ Another issue is the collection of evidence for corruption. In trying to collect evidence against corruption, the youths are in most cases not supported which is majorly due to the elderly mindset that youth cannot be considered responsible enough and things that they bring on the discussion table will only be a wasting the time for the leaders. It is the mindset of the elders that youth lack experience because of which they consider any important input by youths in disregard.
- ◆ The fear in youths to speak out in situations, as there are high chances of youths getting punished for the slightest of voice that they try and raise.



- ◆ The issue of gift giving also leads to corruption. These are the gifts that politicians give out to families before election to influence their votes.
- ◆ Instances whereby the elder generation look down upon the younger generation when they try and bring about a positive change. For example, in Vanuatu, elders tend to threaten the youths through the government or public officials to silence the youths.

**What can you do to raise the voices, concerns and recommendations of young Pacific people on corruption to Pacific leaders this year? (Current Leaders)**

- ◆ There is a power dynamic when there is involvement of both current leaders and the youths who are seen as the future leaders. With such situations, the current leaders have high level of power and with that, situations are set up and enabled whereby there is a power sharing opportunity. This is seen as a concept where leadership goes to the young people and not just wait for the knowledge to come to them.
- ◆ There are opportunities for the youths to voice their opinions provided at the Pacific Islands Forum in terms of good governance and crafting anti-corruption messages.
- ◆ More information is provided by the United Nations Convention against Corruption as most countries are also going through this issue, but there are often not as much information and knowledge about what the process is and the need for community awareness is required to raise the voices of young people.
- ◆ With the power we see that University Students' Associations hold, it can be used to get the messages on anti-corruption out to the youths which will lead onto the wider communities and societies.
- ◆ The values and ethical principles that are already embedded within the societies can be used as a tool in the decision-making process of a nation as well as when policies are been made and implemented, as these are the values that have taken a society forward.
- ◆ Education regarding the topics of anti-corruption and democracy should be taken a level down and be taught from a much younger age, so that growing up children understand the need to be in an ethical path.



## PANEL DISCUSSION

This Panel Discussion spotlighted the concern of “Where to from here”? Working in unity with each other to deliver our resilient and sustainable Blue Pacific.

The list of speakers for this panel was very diverse and unique, with the presence of youth leaders and drivers of change in Ms. Belyndar Rikimani (Climate Youth Activist from the Solomon Islands, Ambassador of One Young World) and Ms. Elizabeth Kite, (Founder of Take the Lead Tonga and She Leads Parliament, Kingdom of Tonga) and Ms. Salanieta Kitoleilei, (Indigenous Fijian Doctoral Candidate at the University of the South Pacific).

These youth leaders and change makers were complemented by Pacific Leaders, Heads of Missions among others, including The Hon. Simon Kofe, (Minister for Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs, Tuvalu), Acting Samoan High Commissioner to New Zealand Mr. Robert Aiono, the Secretary General for the Pacific Islands Forum, Mr. Henry Puna and Ms Anne Fitisemanu, Chief Executive of TupuToa, Aotearoa.

Hon. Simon Kofe opened the discussions and spoke on the query of “How successful do you think your (Hon. Kofe’s) efforts have been in advocating Tuvalu and the Regions climate crisis on a global stage”. Hon. Kofe shed light on how visible Tuvalu’s climate crisis has become throughout the globe, and mentioned how difficult it may be for people in developed nations to understand the plights and overall situations of small atoll nations, however, as Hon. Kofe mentioned, that due to the advancement of technology and established platforms, it was now easier to access information regarding the climate crisis and share experiences with other nations. Hon. Kofe also shed light on the fact that he has never attended any COP conferences, however, he has used the social media platforms to send out messages and experiences in regard to the climate crisis that has been ongoing in Tuvalu. The approach going forward is to look into how the messages can be given out to the wider population.

The power is with the people, because it is the people that can have an influence on their leaders to come up with policies that can be used towards the issue of climate change. Youths have a huge say in this as they are the creative bunch that can come up with innovative solutions.





**Ms. Belyndar Rikimani** spoke on her difficult journey as a youth of the Pacific who has continuously advocated for climate change for the past 7 years and what were some of the challenges and opportunities that she faced in her journey. She highlighted how the process of getting through to the Pacific Islands Forum, United Nations General Assembly and International Court of Justice was the major crisis that was faced in the initial stage of this fight. Her journey began with a simple Environmental Law assignment on the development of a tool for climate ambition, which gave rise to the idea of seeking opinion from the International Court of Justice, as well the Pacific Islands Forum which after a long process, received recognition for Ms. Rikimani for her initiative, something which current leaders of the region had not been able to achieve in that regard. The outcome of this journey was the landmark resolution attained on the 15th of March from the UN General Assembly without any consensus. Finance remains an issue with it imperative to have money to host dialogue and consultation sessions with experts on the matter, however the overall impact and next step has been achieved as youths are now the change they wish to see and they are exhibiting passion at unprecedented level and more positive change(s) are hoped to be seen in the future.

**Ms. Salanieta Kitoleilei** continued the engaging dialogue during the panel discussion by discussing the role that Indigenous and local/ natives play in combatting climate change and speeding up adaptation measures for the same. Ms. Kitoleilei reiterated the strength of traditional knowledge within a community because of their understanding of the environment and they survive because they have learnt to adapt to the different climatic conditions. Providing Gau as an example, a small island in the Republic of Fiji, the coastal line has begun to decrease, and this issue prompted them initially to plant mangroves on the seawalls, but further along the line, they deployed a traditional remedy of sorts by using knowledge of the fisher's system by placing stones towards the coastal side that enable sand to be brought back to the land. In doing so Ms. Kitoleilei spotlighted that the preservation and implementation of traditional knowledge is a key step in answering "where to from here"?

**Mr. Robert Aiono** explained Samoa's approach in advancing gender equality, good governance and climate action on national, regional and international levels, where Samoa has a nationwide sectoral approach in implementing their Sustainable Developmental Goals where the paramount long-term goal is to improve the quality of life for every citizen which ensures that no Samoan gets left behind, and each individual has an active role to play within this vision.

Mr. Aiono further stated that their vision also developed a strategy that Samoa currently is focusing on, with four objectives of, Economic, Social, Development and Infrastructure.

Mr. Aiono mentioned "The sustainable development scores that has been discussed are interlinked with 14 of Samoa's sectoral plans, which requires the convergence of Government and Ministries to discuss the plans and their respective initiatives. The establishment of the SDG national taskforce was also done to ensure the monitoring of the achievement of the goals by Agenda 2030 which will be in another six years. With this in place, Samoa has submitted a voluntary national review in 2020 to the UN with the conclusion that people and organizations need to all come together as a joint effort to achieving the sustainable development goals. With good governance, we also believe that gender equality has its role to play, in particular with having more women within the decision-making process. For example, the current temporary measure that is in place whereby there is an implementation of a 10% threshold of women within parliament. As of June 2022, Samoa has seven women in Parliament, which is a move forward with 13%. Climate Action continues to be the main priority with the hope to secure the target of a 100% renewable energy by 2030."

**Ms. Elizabeth Kite** discussed her journey and the gender equality work that she has carried out and her efforts to empower young women. Gender equality in Tonga, i.e. representation of women at large in the Tongan Parliament was identified, and solutions to curb these issues was formulated after consultations from various Tongan leaders, mentors and former female ministers, who gave a solution to educate the matter of gender inequality from a younger age to youths of the nation, and to inform young women that a place or career in the Tongan Parliament is an option for them all in the future.

Ms. Kite informed the panel and the attendees of how surprising it was that Tongan Males actually wished to see females in the Parliament system. She further stated the issue of implementing and carrying the works of the above-mentioned solution, with the older generation often considering the younger demographic inexperienced in comparison to the current leaders. Ms. Kite highlighted the importance of youths understanding the context of gender equality for them to be able to come up with better solutions, and she concluded by reiterating how data and research combined with real life experiences is a must to understand the issues of gender inequality.

**Ms. Anne Fitisemanu** responded to the question of how she sees the future to be, with a new generation taking leadership roles and whether youths would be able to change the current narratives. She stated how fortunate youths of New Zealand are, because the leaders of their nation wish to work with the younger demographic to find solutions to issues pertinent to the country.

She mentioned how youths bring innovation and a different perspective as well as solutions to some of the biggest underlying issues that even current leaders cannot conjure up. Ms. Fitisemanu highlighted the importance of sharing and creating spaces while giving youths permission to lead, speak and respectfully challenge and champion the issues that need to be addressed in the region as a next step. Like Ms. Kitoleilei, Ms. Fitisemanu discussed the various uses of traditional and indigenous knowledge in dealing with issues of climate change and gender equality, as well as complementing these with modern technology to ensure access of information for youths as a powerful tool to eradicate issues.

Finally, **Mr. Henry Puna**, spotlighted some key challenges the region will face in terms of the implementation of the 2050 Agenda and how can we (the Pacific) collectively address these issues.

Mr. Puna stated “The 2050 Strategy is based on the reality that as Island states who do not have much impact globally will be able to leave some impact on the international stage and it is based on the reality that we have to work collectively if we wish to have any influence on the rest of the world. The Strategy has already been making a positive impact, as seen last September when for the very first time USA held a summit for the leaders in Washington to acknowledge the 2050 Strategy. The strategy outlines the principles of engagement, which very clearly states that if someone wishes to engage in the strategy, they will need to engage with every individual in the Pacific.

The rest of the world is slowly accepting that the 2050 strategy is a must if they want to engage with the Pacific. The strategy was put together under very trying conditions with lockdown being one of them. There was a lockdown of all the borders because of the pandemic but the Pacific Islands Forum team was able to reach out virtually to all the Pacific Island members in order to get their feedback into the strategy. The University of the South Pacific students were acknowledged, as over 800 students had provided huge input into the formulation of the strategy. The next challenge for the strategy is the implementation plan. So, it is encouraged to adopt it and have it as a vision forward. Two possible avenues can be seen through the strategy, with one being the political, governance and leadership thematic area and the other being the people centered development.



Mr. Puna highlight the next step and how to work together by challenging young people to not only rely on the printed document or declarations, rather to ensure that the youths get engaged into making a real difference and advance the achievements moving forward in a collective way. He also highlighted the importance of the launch and establishment of the Youth Advisory Board, which will be seen as a way for people to collectively keep in touch and have a central point for pushing forward all the important agendas”.

## CHALLENGES

Despite the resounding success that was the Pacific Conference on Governance, there were numerous challenges that the project team faced in hosting the conference, whilst also identifying various opportunities which should be taken into consideration for future conference(s)/ events of similar nature.

### Challenges

- ◆ Poor/ lack of clear and proper communication from participants with regards to their travel arrangements and documentation, i.e. failure of sponsored participants to provide their passport details, etc. on time, or failure to communicate anything regarding their travels and last-minute requests to facilitate their requirements
- ◆ Communication with Heads of Missions of the region based in New Zealand was difficult and slow as their contact information was difficult to access.
- ◆ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in New Zealand at the last minute updated the projects team that they would not be able to facilitate the Diplomatic Pick and Drop off, of High-Level speakers, attendees, Diplomats and Delegates, as per the protocols that are set forth. The projects team had to facilitate the pick and drop off of these high-level people on their own without the diplomatic process of a police escort, and special exits out of the aircraft and airport.
- ◆ A high-level speaker scheduled and listed to speak in person in Auckland declined to arrive in Auckland due to weather concerns, despite all logistical arrangements being complete and paid for and spoke via zoom while other speakers almost failed to make the trip to Auckland for their remarks and participation due to adverse weather conditions, and a State of Emergency being declared by the Mayor of Auckland.





# ANNEX

to Part B



## NEWS

## Pacific youth amplify anti-corruption commitment to improve climate change responses and gender equality

13 May 2023



Pacific youth have added further momentum to an important emerging youth movement gaining more support to the [Pacific Youth Vision on a Corruption-resilient 2050 Blue Pacific](#). Over fifty youths attended in person and online, over 15 high-level national and regional leaders from across the Pacific countries discussed the anti-corruption commitments in relation to two topics crucial for the Pacific countries: transparent and accountable responses to climate change and promoting gender equality. The Pacific Governance Conference was convened by the University of the South Pacific Students' Association (USPSA) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in Fiji, supported by the Governments of New Zealand and the United Kingdom, from 11-12 May in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Honourable Nanaia Mahuta, New Zealand's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control and Associate Minister for Māori Development, welcoming the youth engagement at the regional level, applauded the USPSA and the support of USP for raising the voices of the Pacific and rallying people to act. The Honourable Minister said, "Everyone has a role to play in reducing corruption, tackling climate change, and promoting gender equality. I urge us all to work together, and to redouble our collective efforts."

Mr Stephen Cartwright, British Consul General, Auckland said, "The UK is pleased to support this important work with youth in the Pacific, in partnership with UNDP. The growth of youth engagement on anticorruption and, the fact that it has reached policy decision-makers gives us hope for a more sustainable and youth-owned future. Youth is now at the negotiating table, which is a huge success."

USP Vice-Chancellor & President, Professor Pal Ahluwalia said, "This conference was not a one and done deal, as during the Summit the youth participants found their voice as they proceeded to rally and demand for their concerns to be heard by Pacific leaders, so as to ensure their participation and contribution in the growth of region through structured policy dialogues."

Engaging in the discussion, youth participants increased understanding and awareness of the need for more focused attention on anti-corruption in the two highly relevant issues in the Pacific, namely climate change responses and gender equality.

6/7/23, 2:29 PM

## Pacific youth amplify anti-corruption commitment to improve climate change responses and gender equality - University of the South Pacific

As elsewhere in the world, corruption negatively affects climate change responses undermining mitigation efforts and decreasing the quality of adaptation infrastructure in the Pacific. Recognizing that anti-corruption is part and parcel of the broader governance agenda, Pacific youth discussed how corruption threatens the related responses. Climate finance, for instance, which is often routed outside established channels, was discussed as one of the specifically vulnerable areas which needs closer attention.

Solomon Islands Youth Activist Ishmael Aieorea says, "What I have learned was the importance of traditional knowledge to approach and combat corruption and climate change. Contextualizing solutions and approach that people need to adopt and adapt that climate change is very important for the sustainability of climate solution."

As it has been reported, both within climate responses and in a wider context, gender inequality exacerbates corruption risks that ultimately disproportionately affect women and vulnerable groups of society. Discussion also addressed how corruption can also exacerbate existing inequalities reflected in practices that either privilege or target certain groups.

Ms Yemesrach Workie, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Deputy Resident Representative stressed that promoting good governance, fighting corruption, building partnerships and coalitions in support of sustainable development, especially for the benefit of the most vulnerable – align very precisely with UNDP's mandate. "Thanks to the continued dialogue with leaders and the strategic cooperation with the regional organizations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the youth efforts to take the anti-corruption agenda forward is grounded on existing policy commitments and institutional infrastructures, which ensures sustainability and promotes regional unity."

The new Youth Advisory Board on Governance launched during the Conference will be specifically affiliated to PIFS. The Board will facilitate youth engagement at the regional level in a structured and institutionalized way working with the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies. The Board will increase the policy and decision-making influence of students and young people from across the Pacific and promote good governance in support of the [Teieniwa Pacific Unity against Corruption Vision](#) and the good governance component of the [2050 Blue Pacific Strategy](#).

The youth anti-corruption engagement is supported under the UNDP project, Strengthening Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Islands Countries (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project) funded by the Government of the United Kingdom and the United Nations Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAC) funded by the New Zealand Government.



### Related News

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**Integrity Fiji** @integrity\_fiji · May 13  
 As a side event to the Pacific Governance Conference (May 11-12, Auckland), our youth leaders had a very constructive session with the NZ based Pacific Cooperation Foundation. Thank you Melissa Lama and your team for inspiring and empowering young Pacific leaders. You guys rock ❤️



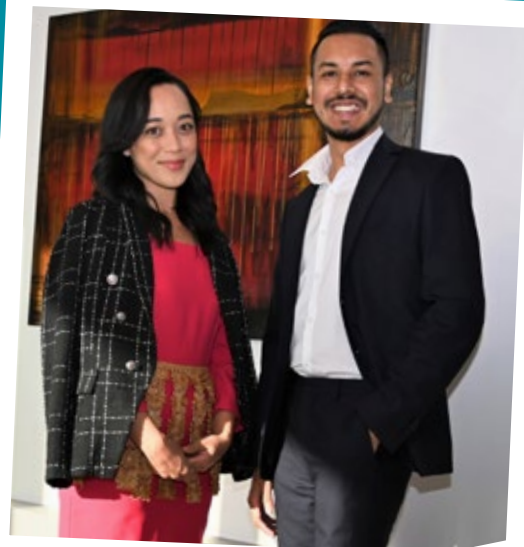
13 ❤️ 259



**Integrity Fiji** @integrity\_fiji · May 13  
 Side meeting held in Auckland (12/5) of Transparency Int @anticorruption Chapter youth leaders from #TISolomon #TIVanuat #TI\_PNG & @youths4integrity7 facilitated by @MariamMathewTI. Lots of dynamic discussions- expect more AC youth regional advocacy in 2023 & beyond ❤️



13 ❤️ 190



The Advisory Board, based at USPSA and affiliated to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), will also work closely with other Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies to further scale up and institutionalize the strategic youth anti-corruption engagement in support of the regional policy commitments including the Teieniwa Vision and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.

UNDP release





## SCALING UP THE YOUTH VOICE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE COOK ISLANDS: PACIFIC ANTI-CORRUPTION YOUTH VISION ADVOCACY AND POLICY CONSULTATIONS

**17 – 24 May 2023**

Organized under the Strengthening Anticorruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries (Pacific Anti-corruption Project) funded by the Government of the United Kingdom.



Integrity FIJI Retweeted

**Mariam Mathew** @MariamMathewTI · May 12

Eye opening revelations on what obstacles young people in the #Pacific experience when working on @anticorruption @youths4integrity @TLPNG @TVanuatu @USPSA\_

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Integrity FIJI Retweeted

**Sonja S. Trajanoska** @SonjaStTr · May 12

Special thanks to Integrity Fiji and the #Pacific Chapters of Transparency International for leading an excellent workshop on the role of youth in advancing regional sustainable development through #anticorruption dialogue & action

#UNPRAC #PacificAct #UKPacificPartnership

THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON GOVERNANCE  
Pacific Youth Spotlighting  
Anti-Corruption in Climate  
Change and Gender Equality  
Auckland, Aotearoa  
New Zealand  
11 and 12 May 2023

UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and 9 others

3 7 34 1,264



## Part C

**PACIFIC YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD  
ON GOVERNANCE SUPPORTED BY  
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME (UNDP) PACIFIC  
OFFICE**





## BACKGROUND & RATIONAL

With half the Pacific region's population aged under 23, young people would affect every aspect of development in coming decades and winning the fight against corruption, which remains an issue of critical concern in the Pacific region, hindering sustainable development and threatening peace, security and stability, depends on harnessing this demographic dividend.

In 2021, USPSA established a strategic partnership with UNDP Pacific Office to enhance integrity, anti-corruption and right to information awareness and advocacy across the region. The initiative, which focuses on international and regional anti-corruption commitments such as the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and the Teieniwa – Pacific Unity Against Corruption Vision has been supported both by the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAC), funded by the Government of New Zealand, and the Strengthening Anticorruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project), funded by the UK Government.

On 7 December 2021, one early high point of this partnership saw USPSA organizing and hosting the Pacific Youth Summit as part of celebrations associated with International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) on 9 December. The unprecedented hybrid online and in-person event, entitled 'The Values of Integrity for the Achievement of Sustainable Development: Resilient Youth Leaders: Drivers of Sustainable Development', brought together over 5,000 youth leaders, students and professionals (estimated 60 percent female) from 12 Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) to discuss the importance of integrity and stronger youth action on anti-corruption, transparency, and accountability towards progress on the sustainable development agenda.

As well as engaging a significant number of young people from across the region, the Summit forged multi-stakeholder partnerships at the highest levels between USPSA, UNDP Pacific Office, PIFS, New Zealand High Commission in Fiji, U.S. Embassy in Suva Youth Council, Chambers of Commerce of Fiji, Samoa, Palau, Fiji Independent Commission against Corruption (FICAC), UNDP Bangkok Regional Centre, and Freedom House. A second Pacific Youth Summit was organized for October 2022, with a host of high-level attendees partaking in it.

Subsequently, alongside a ground-breaking series of activities with Pacific youth, including outreach via surveys, creative arts, workshops, video production, and digital prototyping hackathons, a second-high point of the partnership saw USPSA initiating and organized the Pacific Regional Leaders Dialogue, entitled 'Advancing the Right to Information to Improve Governance and Fight Corruption', on 26 May 2022. The event brought more than 800 young people together with high level national and regional political representatives to discuss the benefits of the right to information, generate ideas to strengthen the fight against corruption, and highlight the vital role young people can play in accelerating progress. The event set new standards for giving youth voice in the region and access to the highest levels of political leadership, including PIFS.

The event was widely covered across the Pacific region in live, print, and online media, and Dr Filimon Manoni, the Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, pledged continued commitment to work with youth and all strategic partners of the Pacific Youth Summit to advance the Teieniwa Pacific Unity against Corruption Vision and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.



As a result of these activities, the voice and anti-corruption concerns of young people from across the Pacific found a new and receptive audience among national and regional leaders. Capitalizing on this unprecedented development, and with the aim of inspiring further demand and articulating and enabling increased informed and positive anti-corruption engagement, the Pacific youth movement sought to develop into a structured body through the creation of a Regional Youth Advisory Board on Governance, which was launched and established on the 11th of May, 2023 in Auckland New Zealand, which would work with PIFS to advance the governance agenda.

The now established Youth Advisory Board aims to reaffirm young people's connection with the region's resources and cultures and recognize the importance of collaborative and cooperative work to support and strengthen institutions and promote the values of governance, transparency and accountability for a just, fairer and more equitable Blue Pacific Continent.

## I. EXPECTATIONS

The Youth Advisory Board, based at USPSA which will serve as its secretariat, will articulate, promote and enable the influence and impact of the voice of young people across the Pacific regarding governance. It will engage in a range of advocacy activities with a diverse set of stakeholders, including CSOs, women, students and other young people, to promote the Teieniwa Pacific Unity against Corruption Vision and the governance component of the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy with the aim of supporting and promoting well-functioning institutions with a high level of integrity to ensure that no one is left behind.

The Board will ensure regular dialogue, engagement and interactions between young people, including students, and national and regional bodies, including PIFS and the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP), to advance the concerns of young people and facilitate youth-led activities regarding integrity, anti-corruption and the right to information, and strengthen Forum solidarity and Pacific youth voice as the basis for the region's international partnerships.

In addition, it will strengthen the inclusion and sustained involvement of non-state actors, including media, academic, community and faith-based organizations, along with enhanced engagement of development partners to support the enhancement and safeguarding of governance across the Blue Pacific Continent.



## II. OBJECTIVES AND KEY FUNCTIONS

The aim of the Youth Advisory Board is to work with in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) to further scale up strategic youth engagement on governance in support of the Teieniwa Vision and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy. The Board will engage regionally at the policy level via dialogues, events and advocacy.

### Objectives include:

- ◆ Improving knowledge of the importance of integrity and stronger youth action on anti-corruption, transparency, and accountability to achieve progress on the sustainable development agenda in the Pacific.
- ◆ Improving knowledge about the indivisibility and the linkages between the SDGs, including between SDG 16 on governance and a prosperous future for all.
- ◆ Improving knowledge that the business sector can only be sustainable and provide opportunities for growth if it is grounded on the values of integrity.
- ◆ Promoting and facilitating vibrant dialogue about the important role of youth in bringing policy issues forward and providing a critical link between development and governance.
- ◆ Developing a new coalition of emerging young leaders able to respond to unique Pacific challenges and contribute to achievement of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs with integrity, resilience and innovative thinking.

### Key functions include:

- ◆ Representing the voices and concerns of young people in PIF Member States regarding governance.
- ◆ Engaging with stakeholders including CSOs, students, women and young people across the region to promote the Teieniwa Vision and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.
- ◆ Identifying governance challenges and opportunities regarding integrity, anti-corruption and right to information in national, sub-regional and regional contexts.
- ◆ Working collaboratively with the USPSA Secretariat.
- ◆ Supporting the visibility and outreach of PIF's governance programmes and activities.
- ◆ Facilitating and organizing regional conferences and events as a means of public advocacy.
- ◆ Contributing to the organization of the Pacific Youth Summit to sustain it as a regular event and promote visibility of the Board's activities.
- ◆ Giving voice to young people regarding improved policy dialogue and representation in high-level discussions and leadership decisions.
- ◆ Contributing to awareness and advocacy activities related to governance and right to information led by UNDP and other partners.



### III. FEATURES OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Youth Advisory Board will be composed of nine members aged between 18 and 35 from diverse backgrounds who will initially serve for a period of two years. Members will be expected to be available when required by the Secretariat Body.

Two members (one male and one female) will be nominated by each of three sub-regional organizations, namely the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the Micronesian Presidents' Summit, and the Polynesian Leaders Group. One youth nominated by PIFS.

Two further members will be selected via an open call from across the Pacific Islands with strategic outreach to CSOs, alliances and networks in all PIF member countries. The application process is given below.

Selection of members will ensure gender and sub-regional balance. Applications from marginalized groups (e.g. women, indigenous, rural, minority and migrated communities, and those living with disabilities) are encouraged. To ensure the inclusion of members from marginalized groups, variations in the criteria specified in section VI (Application Process) may be allowed to offset historical and structural factors.

### IV. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND SUSTAINABILITY

The establishment of the Youth Advisory Board on Governance is led by the University of South Pacific Students Association and is supported by UNDP Pacific Office through the Strengthening Anticorruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project), funded by the UK Government and the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAC), funded by the Government of New Zealand. The Youth Advisory Board on Governance will be managed and sustained by USP Students Association and will regularly collaborate with PIFS to enhance work around governance and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.





## LAUNCH OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

The official launch of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) took place on the 11th of May, 2023 after the culmination of the first day of the Pacific Conference on Governance.

The event was graced with the presence of the Hon. Simon Kofe Minister of Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs Tuvalu, Mr. Henry Puna Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, dignitaries from the New Zealand Government, and British High Commission to New Zealand, youths, and other members of various CROP Agencies. Mr. Puna reiterated the University of the South Pacific's initiative to "connect young people, both to the current regional political leadership and the wider community, empowering them to voice their concerns to advocate for action, which has empowered pacific youths to engage positively in areas beyond right to information and anti-corruption".

Ms. Yemesrach Workie, a UNDP Pacific Office Deputy Resident Representative stated how the launch of the Youth Advisory Board on a Governance is a "very strong and ground- breaking impetus to the growing youth anti-corruption movement in the Pacific". She further stated in her remarks during the launch of the Board that "this (Youth Advisory Board) has set new standards for youth advocacy and influence in the region, and provides an important new channel to represent the voice of the young people at the highest regional political levels".

### CHALLENGES

In successfully launching the Youth Advisory Board on Governance in Auckland New Zealand, there were some challenges faced in the process which included:

#### Challenges

- ◆ Delays, i.e. the Launch of the Youth Advisory Board had been scheduled for September of 2022, yet continuous delays in logistical arrangements, location and venue, representation of a Youth member among other delays, caused the eventual overdue, albeit successful launch to take place in May of 2023.
- ◆ Such is the structure of the board, all 3 sub-regional groupings of the South Pacific region (Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia) were due to appoint 6 members to be part of the Board, but this was not achieved by the date of the launch and there was delayed or lack of confirmation from these sub-regional groupings regarding the status of the situation.
- ◆ The Board launch took place with 1 member of the Advisory Board, (Ms. Belyndar Rikimani) as opposed to the full 9 members as hoped.





# ANNEX

to Part C







Pacific Office

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PACIFIC YOUTH DETERMINED TO MAKE POLICY IMPACT ON GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

# Pacific youth determined to make policy impact on good governance and anti-corruption

The University of the South Pacific Students' Association launches a Youth Advisory Board on Governance in partnership with UNDP

**MAY 12, 2023**

The Youth Advisory Board was launched with (from left) Hon. Simon Kofe, Minister for Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs, Government of Tuvalu; Mr. Henry Puna, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum; Ms. Yemesrach Workie, UNDP Deputy

<https://www.undp.org/pacific/press-releases/pacific-youth-determined-make-policy-impact-good-governance-and-anti-corruption>

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## Pacific Office

**Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand** – The University of the South Pacific Students' Association (USPSA) today inaugurated a regional Youth Advisory Board on Governance in the presence of the Honourable Simon Kofe, Minister for Justice, Communication, and Foreign Affairs, Tuvalu, and the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Mr Henry Puna. The ceremony, which was also attended by dignitaries from the New Zealand Government and the British High Commission to New Zealand as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in Fiji Deputy Resident Representative, was held during the two-day Pacific Conference on Governance organized by USPSA and UNDP.

The new Board will increase the policy and decision-making influence of students and young people from across the Pacific and convey their concerns regarding good governance, particularly as it relates to anti-corruption and the right to information. Specifically, the Board will work at the policy level with the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and will be specifically affiliated to PIF, to use dialogues, events and advocacy to expand youth engagement on good governance in support of regional policy commitments including in particular the Teieniwā Pacific Unity against Corruption Vision and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.

A further positive outcome of the integrity and anti-corruption partnership established in 2021 among the Governments of New Zealand and the United Kingdom, USPSA and UNDP, will see the new Board engage regionally with civil society and women's organizations, as well as students and other young people, to facilitate informed and effective anti-corruption engagement and generate demand for good governance. More broadly, it aims to reaffirm young people's connections with the region's resources and cultures, recognize the importance of collaborative work to strengthen well-





## Pacific Office

With a secretariat established at USPSA, the Board has nine members aged between 18 and 35 years with ensured gender and sub-regional balance. They will serve for a term of two years.

The Honourable Simon Kofe, Minister for Justice, Communication, and Foreign Affairs of Tuvalu said: “The intersection of corruption and climate change is a complex and pressing issue that needs the attention of policy makers, civil society, and individuals. Corruption undermines efforts to address climate change, while the impacts of climate change create conditions for corruption to thrive.”

Mr Henry Puna, Secretary-General of the PIF, said: “USP’s initiative has connected young people, both to the current regional political leadership and the wider community, empowering them to voice their anti-corruption concerns. To advocate for action. The work has also empowered Pacific youth to engage positively in areas beyond right to information and anti-corruption.”

Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the South Pacific said, “Our commitments are not only limited to antic-corruption policies, as we are also committed to governance in the Pacific region, and these commitments are exemplified by the University of the South Pacific’s Strategic Plan where good governance continues to be a key priority of the university in its aims to achieve strategic objectives and maintain its long-term viability and reputation and the institution will continue to ensure that the highest level of good governance and ethics are paramount to all operations.”

The Honourable Nanaia Mahuta, New Zealand's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control and Associate Minister for Māori Development,







## Pacific Office

challenges ahead; in making representation and participation equitable, and making governance effective, transparent, and accountable.”

Mr. Stephen Cartwright, British Consul General, Auckland, said: “I congratulate all Pacific youth for this critical and impactful initiative and the Pacific Leaders for their positive response to it. The UK is delighted to support the creation of the Pacific Youth Advisory Board on Governance, which demonstrates the important role young people have in fostering Pacific cooperation. The UK is committed to supporting youth engagement and to collaborate with like-minded partners in fostering a whole of society approach to Pacific regionalism. We envisage that through initiating this conversation, more innovative contributions will be made throughout the coming days to ensure Pacific Island Countries are better equipped to prevent and tackle corruption in all its forms.”

Ms Yemesrach Workie, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Deputy Resident Representative said: “The inauguration of the regional Youth Advisory Board on Governance is a very strong and ground-breaking impetus to the growing youth anti-corruption movement in the Pacific. The Board sets new standards for youth advocacy and influence in the region, and provides an important new channel to represent the voice of young people at the highest regional political levels. And this vision aligns very closely with UNDP’s core values and mandate related to achieving sustainable development through promoting participatory governance and leaving no one behind.”

The USPSA Youth Advisory Board is supported by UNDP Pacific Office’s projects, Strengthening Anticorruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project) funded by the Government of the United Kingdom and





**Integrity Fiji** @integrity\_fiji · May 10

IntegrityFiji's Youths4Integrity team pictured with [@MariamMathewTI](#), Makereta Mua, Head of Governance FNU, Leonard Chan NZMFAT in Auckland, NZ for Pacific Governance Conference. [#Integrity](#) [#anticorruption](#)



1 23 267



**Integrity Fiji** @integrity\_fiji · May 6

Meeting with Anna Zamparo & @Losana Tuiraviravi of [@anticorruption](#) on the IPP STRONGG Project Monitoring Pacific Visit. May 6, 8-9 at "Devos on the Park" CLCT Integrity Fiji full time and part timers are part of the M&E wksp. [#anticorruption](#) [#integrity](#)



4 13 248



**The University of the South Pacific Students' Association**  
May 20 at 10:40 AM ·



**Integrity Fiji Retweeted**



**youths4Integrity Fiji** @youths4integrity · May 12

Youths4Integrity & [@FNUFiji](#) students facilitated 'talanoa'on"role of youth in fighting corruption towards advancing 2050 strategy: integrated Pac approach to fighting corruption."Thank you [@ukinfiji](#) [@USPSA](#) [@UNDP\\_Pacific](#) for empowering young leaders ❤️ [#UNPRAC](#) Thanks [@GraceKonrote](#)



**The USP Students' Association Retweeted**  
**Revai MakanjeAalbaek** @RevaiMakanje · May 11  
Replying to [@Yemesrach16](#) [@UNDP\\_Pacific](#) and 3 others

Excited to hear the outcomes of the deliberations. Power of youths organizing for good governance in the Pacific Island Countries! Hands off to [@USPSA](#)



1



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## Part D

### SCALING UP THE YOUTH VOICE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE COOK ISLANDS





# Pacific Anti-Corruption Youth Vision Advocacy and Policy Consultations

## INTRODUCTION

Pacific leaders realized the vulnerabilities that exist in the Pacific and efforts at wide ranging levels have been strategically placed to prepare the region to combat them. Among these are the international, regional commitments and national commitments that aim to address the pertinent issues through a whole-of-society approach. These commitments include UNCAC, Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the Teieniwā Vision and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.

The Cook Islands Cabinet established the Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) in 2011 to carry out the obligations under UNCAC. The ACC is composed of the Solicitor-General, the Commissioner of Police, the Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Director of the Cook Islands Audit Office, the Financial Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management – Chair, the Public Service Commissioner, the Chief of Staff of the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ombudsman).

On 20 June 2022, the ACC approved a road map with the key steps of the design process for drafting a National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) including timing and methodology for consultations, strategy, action plan and monitoring. This approach is in line with the international standards and also best practices for preparation of NACS.

The said roadmap envisaged a series of stakeholder consultations, including with civil society to gather views, enhance awareness and understanding of the broad range of interventions envisaged by the strategy that the strategy should include and to engage the public administration at all levels in the process, including for implementation and evaluation of the strategy. The ongoing activities also include media engagement and public communication on the strategy-drafting work, so that the general public and interested stakeholders know that their input is welcome and to explain why fighting corruption, and having a NACS, are considered priorities.

The preparation of the Strategy is also addressing the national commitments against the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. The NACS is also responding to other regional commitments including notably The Teieniwā Vision and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific.

The NACS is currently undergoing a political process of finalization and it is expected to be adopted later in 2023.

UNDP has been providing anti-corruption assistance to 14 Pacific Island Countries in the Pacific, including in relation to supporting anti-corruption policymaking, forging multi-stakeholder consultative processes and working with different stakeholders towards improved anti-corruption results. This is in line with UNDP's governance mandate as well as its role as an integrator of the SDGs. Currently, UNDP is implementing two major Pacific regional anti-corruption projects, namely, the project 'Strengthening Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries ("Pacific Anti-Corruption Project") funded by the Government of the United Kingdom (UK); and the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAC), funded by the New Zealand Government.

Capitalizing on the unprecedented Youth Movement and its events, (Pacific Youth Summit, Regional Leaders Dialogue, Pacific Conference on Governance, establishment of the Youth Advisory Board) and with the aim of inspiring further demand and articulating and enabling



increased informed and positive anti-corruption engagement, the USPSA, in partnership with UNDP, organized a youth advocacy and mission to Cook Islands as per the current agreement with UNDP.

The Cooks Islands, who are also committed to Teieniwa Vision Pacific Unity against Corruption, with it being clear that a thriving future for our region can exist only if we address Corruption. The 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy sets out long-term approaches to working in unison as a region and as countries, communities and as people of the Pacific.

The link between these international, regional, and national commitments is that all of them have clear objectives of working through a whole-of-society approach in combating prevalent and long-standing issues, in particular corruption. Essentially each strategy focuses on working together, while pressing at the heart of corruption in the region with clear objectives of eradicating it with a long-term, sustainable approach involving all relevant stakeholders.

The main purpose of the mission to the Cook Islands was to organize further youth advocacy and consultations with youth around the Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Vision also framed around the ongoing national anti-corruption efforts of the Cook Islands pertaining to the national anti-corruption strategy and the importance of involvement of youth in the implementation of the agreed actions. The awareness and advocacy work in the Cook Islands were anchored on the regional and international commitments and helped in establishing the linkages and relevance between national, regional and international anti-corruption work.

Given the commitment of USPSA to continue working on promoting the Vision including through organization of annual Pacific Youth Summits, USPSA would like to initiate discussions for potential organization of the next Pacific Youth Summit 2023 in the Cook Islands back to back with the upcoming PIFS Leaders' Summit to take place in October 2023 in Cook Islands.



## OBJECTIVES

Capitalizing on the massive youth anti-corruption engagement initiated by USPSA with support from UNDP Pacific, USPSA in cooperation with the Youth Council of the Cook Islands and relevant authorities, USPSA organized anti-corruption awareness and policy dialogue between the anti-corruption institutions and youth and civil society stakeholders in the Cook Islands. The final objective was to ensure that the Youth Vision creates a multi-stakeholder approach and inclusion in its implementation, including specifically in relation to the voice of youth.

## OUTCOMES

- ◆ Successfully brought youths and representatives from key Anti-Corruption institutions from the Cook Islands to discuss the Youth Vision
- ◆ Successfully identified areas of challenge and opportunities where youths and CSO's can actively be involved and implement strategies to achieve national level success.

## CHALLENGES

Despite successfully implementing the Youth Vision Advocacy and Consultations, there were minor challenges faced which were:

### Challenges

- ◆ All participants who attended the sessions were working students, so it was difficult in arranging their sessions according to timeslots which accommodated for them
- ◆ Lack of knowledge on the subject matter







# OUTCOME STATEMENTS AND YOUTH PERSPECTIVE ON THE YOUTH VISION FOR A BLUE PACIFIC- As identified by the Youths of the Cook Islands

## Good Governance from a Youth Perspective

### 1. Strength

- ◆ It invites new ideas from youth perspectives.
- ◆ More transparency if all sectors are included in Good Governance.
- ◆ It is important to include youth and their perspectives in policy making as they will be the ones taking the policies forward to the future.
- ◆ Continued discussions on such areas will lead to sustainable change for the future.

### 2. Weakness

- ◆ Lack of support from traditional leaders.
- ◆ Lack of capacity within the youth groups to encourage them to take part in the good governance discussions.
- ◆ Lack of coordination and inclusion between current leaders and youth groups to consult on national policies.

### 3. Opportunities

- ◆ There will be an improved relationship between USP and youth organizations in Cook Islands if such discussions continue to happen.
- ◆ Improve the relationship between policy maker and youth groups.
- ◆ A positive change will be seen in terms of good governance capacity development in all the youth spaces.

### 4. Threats

- ◆ Individuals with a traditional mindset can bring about a drawback in the Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific.
- ◆ Depopulation > a noticeable change already being seen is the job markets in overseas countries attracting the local people in Cook Islands.

### 5. Approach

- ◆ For successful good governance, a respectful and humble approach needs to be taken due to the cultural respect that individuals have for their elders and the people in traditional power. For example, the Pride Cook Islands Campaign for decrime was a success because of the approach they used which was of love and respect as their core values.





# Intergenerational Wisdom in support of the Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific

Intergenerational wisdom is the different learnings each generation gains which in many ways depends on their social environments. These are the wisdom that gets passed down through stories trainings (professionally). It's a valuable concept but it cannot be the only concept that individuals use to learn.

The intergenerational wisdom not only refers to the past knowledge, but it also refers to the current knowledge that people are attaining. To move in a space without intergenerational wisdom would be like navigating without a map. It is something that can help and guide individuals in seeing the warning signs of corruption and finding solutions to deal with corruption.

## 1. Strength

- ◆ Intergenerational wisdom can be used as a learning tool.
- ◆ It can help to be informed in the decision-making process.
- ◆ Collectively having the past, present and future aspects, this wisdom can help in navigating the ongoing changes effectively.

## 2. Weakness

- ◆ Having to consider the intergenerational wisdom as something that only looks at the traditional way of life and misinterpreting this wisdom.
- ◆ Intergenerational wisdom that is steeped in as discriminatory ideologies.

## 3. Opportunities

- ◆ There will be capacity building and development at all generational levels.
- ◆ Growth will be seen in knowledge sharing in both formal and informal settings.
- ◆ Development stories can be used as a means of informing people of the ways in which positive changes can be made for the future generations.

## 4. Threats

- ◆ Individuals with an outdated mindset can be a threat for positive changes.
- ◆ Those that are resistance to changing environment will try and make their way through to stop any positive change from happening.





## Transformational Power in Good Governance

Changes are required from a systemic perspective. Once the system changes, this can then be filtered down to leaders and individuals. Having transformational power in good governance includes the following:

- ◆ Access to information about government literacy.
- ◆ Politicians to be held accountable for funds used in office, for example, have reports of the management of funds.
- ◆ Increased accountability and transparency which will enable the public to engage fully with the different level of state government.
- ◆ Practicing of good governance which will encourage honesty.
- ◆ Understanding that good governance is a key pillar for the progress of a nation.
- ◆ Good governance is required in order to secure further funding from partner agencies.
- ◆ The need for good governance is necessary for the improvement at a policy, process and procedural level.
- ◆ Good governance will ensure that the operation of a nation is conducted smoothly.
- ◆ Good governance helps in ensuring that the economy of a nation is looked after properly.
- ◆ Review of the Judiciary system.
- ◆ Introduction and implementation of new Acts for protection.
- ◆ General public to have access to the public servant reports (salary).
- ◆ Preserve the traditional wisdom and teachings, at the same time have this wisdom passed into the younger generation.
- ◆ Have government level involvement of youth and develop means of having them interested in the decision-making process as they are the future generation.
- ◆ Current leaders need to have discussions with their youths in order to keep informed of the processes that happening, which can happen through more workshops and conferences in schools, universities, communities as well as places of worships.
- ◆ More capacity building workshops can be conducted to educate individuals and create awareness.
- ◆ In terms of climate change, more trainings need to be conducted to ensure that people respond well in times of disasters.





## Challenges

- ◆ Access to official reports.
- ◆ People voices not been heard.
- ◆ Lack of resources and facilities to support the interest of the people.
- ◆ Not being able to adapt to the new changes that come about.
- ◆ Unlawful sentencing.
- ◆ Constant increase in corruption in the public sector.
- ◆ Lack of awareness in the communities.
- ◆ Lack of leading influencers to educate the people of the negative effects of corruption.
- ◆ Misuse of money at the Government level.
- ◆ Lack of motivation amongst the youth to have them take part in the decision-making processes which will pose a negative threat on their future.





## Youth Vision aspiration for a 2050 Blue Pacific

The aspiration of the Blue Pacific that the people of Cook Islands wish to see are as follows:

- ◆ More accountability
- ◆ To stop nepotism and have a merit-based system.
- ◆ Practice transparency.
- ◆ Youths need to be asking more questions to have better understanding.
- ◆ Understanding what corruption is and the negative effect it can have on people and the system.
- ◆ Advancing the education system on such issues, so that everyone becomes aware of the issue.
- ◆ Practicing good governance.
- ◆ In today's world of technology and modernization, having the same cultural values that taught us good practices is very important.
- ◆ Knowing that corruption has existed and will continue to exist, people need to learn to adapt to it and find best solutions to overcome the issue.
- ◆ Culture – the Cook Islands culture is to respect our elders and not question their opinions on issue. This aspect of the culture is a lot stronger in the Pa Enua's.
- ◆ Diaspora - a change needs to be made which needs to begin in the communities.
- ◆ Lack of experience – the youth may see the lack of experience as a challenge in navigating a complex system and understand the intricacies of corruption.

The Pasifika people have a unique relationship with the ocean as it is our biggest resource. However, there is a spiritual connection to the ocean as it was the path, we all took to get to our homelands. It surrounds us and provides for every individual in different ways. For the people of the Pacific, our ocean is what connects us as a Blue Pacific which is also known as Te Moana Nui O Kiva which is the biggest continent. The people of the Pasifika are the custodians to protect the ocean which provides us our home.

With all the similarities that we have as individuals of the unique ocean, it is our little differences that gives us the opportunity to learn more. Pasifika people as a whole are connected through the ocean, which makes it our responsibility to work collaboratively and collectively to protect it from any negative impact.





# ANNEX

to Part D





## NEWS

## Youth anti-corruption movement embraced in the Cook Islands

30 May 2023



Capitalizing on the massive youth anti-corruption engagement initiated by the University of the South Pacific Students' Association (USPSA), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and funded by the UK Government, USPSA, in cooperation with the Youth Council of the Cook Islands and relevant authorities, organized anti-corruption consultations and policy dialogue between the anti-corruption institutions, youth and civil society stakeholders from 17-23 May in the Cook Islands.

The anti-corruption policy dialogue brought together youth and representatives from key government and non-government stakeholders in the Cook Islands including the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, National Youth Council, National Women's Council, the Ombudsman's Office, National Disability Council and Pride Cook Islands. The discussions and policy advocacy workshops with these stakeholders aimed at furthering the region's commitments under the [Pacific Youth Vision on a Corruption-resilient 2050 Blue Pacific](#).

The dialogue focused on the related challenges and opportunities for youth and civil society more broadly to be actively involved in the implementation of the Youth Vision, monitoring and achieving results nationally and regionally. The dialogue embraced around 100 students, community leaders and civil society and citizens at large.

Mr. Mia Teaurima, Director of Island Governance (Office of the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands) said the Cook Islands is committed to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Teieniwa Vision Pacific Unity against Corruption, and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy, which set out long-term approaches to working in unison as a region and as countries, communities and as people of the Pacific.

6/6/23, 5:39 PM

## Youth anti-corruption movement embraced in the Cook Islands - University of the South Pacific

"We welcome the youth anti-corruption movement expanding to the Cook Islands and establishing the linkages and relevance between national, regional and international anti-corruption work where all stakeholders can work together. It is critical that our youth today who are our future leaders are well acquainted with the principles of good governance to avoid corruption in our societies," he added.

USP Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Pal Ahluwalia said, "This youth initiative has connected young people both to the current regional political leadership and the wider community, empowering them to voice their anti-corruption concerns and advocate for action."

Student Associations' work has also empowered Pacific youth to engage positively in sustainable development areas particularly around good governance. This has benefits for future more targeted engagement and spotlighting specific topics of youth concern where improved action is needed, such as in relation to addressing gender inequality and the climate crisis.

The continued youth advocacy and increased demand for more structured and sustainable dialogue on anti-corruption culminated in the launch of a Youth Advisory Board on Good Governance. [The Advisory Board was formally launched on 11 May](#) during [the Pacific Conference on Governance in Auckland, New Zealand](#) organized by the USPSA in partnership with UNDP, and funded by the UK government and the New Zealand government, with over 65 youth participants and national and regional policymakers.

The Advisory Board, based at USPSA and affiliated to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), will also work closely with other Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies to further scale up and institutionalize the strategic youth anti-corruption engagement in support of the regional policy commitments including [the Teieniwa Vision](#) and [the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy](#).

Ms Nicola Noble, Deputy High Commissioner to Fiji said, "The UK is delighted to see the development of the youth anti-corruption movement to this unprecedented scale, which has the potential to influence regional policy making. This project is one of a number of local initiatives which the UK is supporting through the Pacific CSSF programme and reflects the UK's strong commitment to deepen our engagement in the region and support our shared vision for stability, cooperation and prosperity."

Ms Verena Linneweber, Officer-in-Charge, UNDP Multi Country Office in Samoa said, "The development of the Pacific Youth anti-corruption movement is an impressive and commendable achievement as part of UNDP's anti-corruption assistance to 14 Pacific Island Countries in the region."

She added that UNDP's anti-corruption work in the Pacific includes supporting anti-corruption policymaking, forging multi-stakeholder consultative processes, and working with different stakeholders towards improved anti-corruption results in line with UNDP's governance mandate as well as its role as an integrator of the SDGs.

In partnership with the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji under its project, 'Strengthening Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries' (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project) funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, the dialogue created a multi-stakeholder approach and inclusion in the implementation of the Youth Vision, including specifically in relation to the voice of youth.



## Related News

30 May 2023

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<https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/youth-anti-corruption-movement-embraced-in-the-cook-islands/>

2/3





## Youth anti-corruption movement embraced by Cook Islands groups

Wednesday 31 May 2023 | Written by [Supplied](#) | Published in [Local](#), [National](#)

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**An anti-corruption policy dialogue brought together youth and representatives from government and non-government stakeholders in the Cook Islands including the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, National Youth Council, National Women's Council, the Ombudsman's Office, National Disability Council and Pride Cook Islands.**

The dialogue embraced around 100 students, community leaders and civil society and citizens at large.

This was initiated by the University of the South Pacific Students' Association (USPSA), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and funded by the United Kingdom Government, USPSA, in cooperation with the Youth Council of the Cook Islands and relevant authorities, organised anti-corruption consultations and policy dialogue between the anti-corruption institutions, youth and civil society stakeholders took place from May 17 -23 in Rarotonga.



*Participants from National Youth Council, local CSOs, communities and outer islands at the USP Cook Islands Campus Photo: USPSA/ 23053005*





 The USP Students' Association Retweeted  
 Mariam Mathew @MariamMathewTI · May 12  
 Eye opening revelations on what obstacles young people in the #Pacific  
 experience when working on @anticorruption @youths4integrity @TI\_PNG  
 @TVanuatu @USPSA\_







Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) @AucklandCDEM

! Mayor Wayne Brown has ended the state of local emergency for Auckland. Read more here:



Solomon Islands High Comm...  
High Commissioner Tangironga Alomoti of the @SolomonIslands youth reps at the Pacific Governance Conference | #Auckland. Excellent discussions on Youth's role in addressing corruption in #ClimateChange, facilitated by @USPSA, @UNEP/Pacific and supported by the @UKaid and @GovtA.  
5:07 PM - May 11, 2023 from Auckland, New Zealand  
4 Retweets 13 Likes



Henry Puna @henrytpuna · May 11  
I've said it before and I will say it again - walking the talk and ensuring visions become realities relies on our youth.

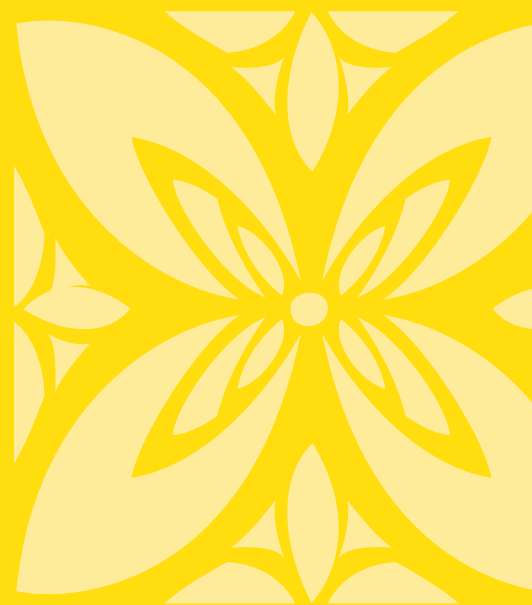
Exciting to see our youth leaders of our Pacific university leading the conversations on governance, climate, and anticorruption -- well done @USPSA





# Part E

## SURVEYS AND FEEDBACKS

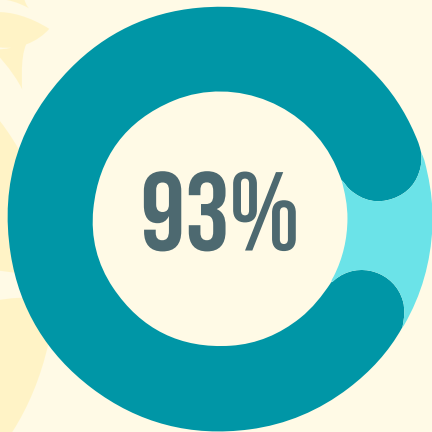






## Regional Pacific Youth Seminar on Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific – Evaluation Summaries

### SUMMARY OF RESPONSES



of the respondents rated the seminar as an overall success.

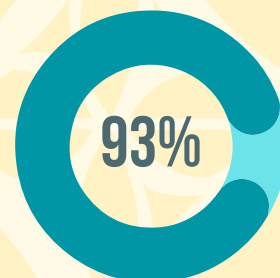
The majority of the respondents were clear about the statement of the objectives.

93%

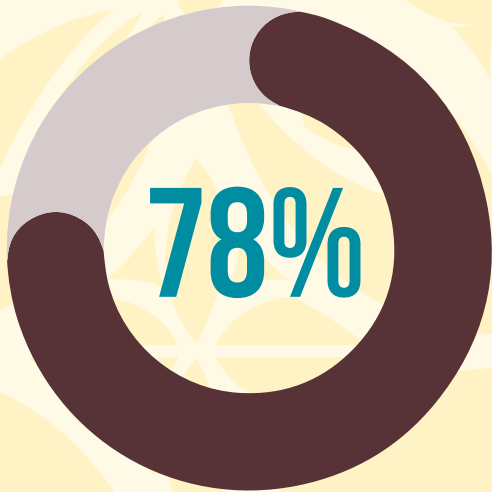
respondents were clear on their expectations of the seminar.



Approximately 96% of the respondents found the group discussions useful.

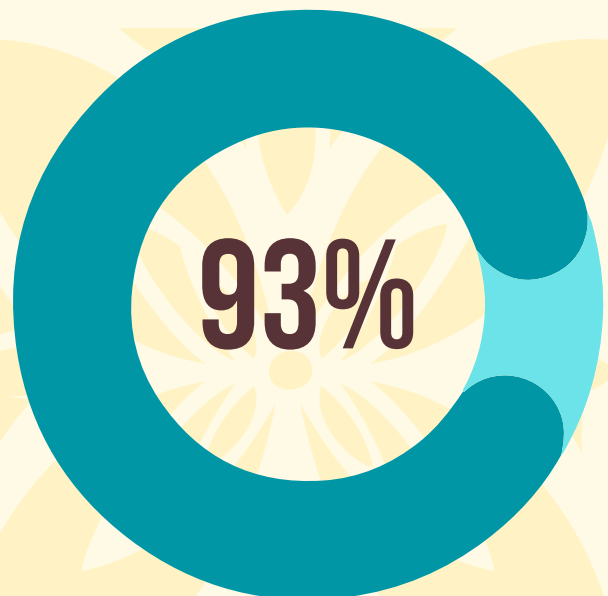


In relation to the logical process of the event from the beginning to end, 93% of the respondents noted that there was a cohesive flow.



**78% of the participants stated that they will recommend the seminar to other friends and colleagues.**

**93% of the respondents stated that they will be utilizing the learning of the seminar and take it forwards.**



**The organisation of the overall seminar together with the presenters and facilitators was commended by 96% of the participants.**

## GENERAL FEEDBACK

### A. Lessons learnt during the seminar.

- ◆ Encourage young people to reduce the level of corruption.
- ◆ Youths have a lot of innovative ideas which can be used to fight corruption.
- ◆ Educating the young children about corruption.
- ◆ Create awareness amongst youth about corruption.
- ◆ Working together as Pacific Islanders as one to fight corruption especially because we as youths are the leaders of the future.
- ◆ Educate people on the effects, impacts and actions that climate change has in the Pacific and find solutions to become resilient.
- ◆ Ensuring that there is transparency in the decision-making bodies and have more inclusivity of the youths and women.
- ◆ The youths need to unite as Pacific to fight against corruption and develop strategies to overcome the issue of corruption.
- ◆ Youths can make a lot of positive changes if given the opportunity and with the use of the “Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific”, youths can work towards an anti-corruption region.
- ◆ Corruption is the leading cause of hindrance for Blue Pacific, Youth Vision and Sustainable Development goals.
- ◆ To have more transparency while networking so that there are no misunderstandings.
- ◆ Youths need to work collaboratively as a region to make changes on corruption related issues.
- ◆ Working together in order to break the chain of corruption, focusing on climate resilient 2050 Blue Pacific.
- ◆ Every individual must be given the opportunity to voice their concerns in regard to the issue of corruption.
- ◆ There needs to be proper channels placed to redirect corrupt actions to achieve accountability and transparency.



## **B. How can this seminar be improved, if at all?**

- ◆ Conducting more workshops and training of such nature.
- ◆ Research and questions regarding the seminar to be circulated before the date of the seminar so that people can come prepared with their own research work.
- ◆ More case studies can be discussed during the seminar.
- ◆ The seminar to be either a whole day event or a full two-day event for better knowledge sharing.

## **C. What will be the next step for you following this seminar?**

- ◆ Pass on the message to my fellow youths and people in my society.
- ◆ Attend any follow-up sessions that will align with the topic of the seminar.
- ◆ Build good relationships with relevant agencies and request for assistance and more research on the topic of corruption.
- ◆ Try and engage more of my peers and fellow youth to join in the current discussions as we will be the leaders of the future and we need to have good understanding of the issues.
- ◆ Engage in more discussions with the relevant partner agencies and organizations.

## **D. Please indicate areas/topics in which you would like to have more trainings/ workshops/seminars/knowledge-exchange and the type of support needed.**

- ◆ Continue with these types of events, to engage more young people to become aware of the issues that are affecting the whole nation.
- ◆ Having more case studies presented on the topics of corruption and climate change to relay the message across.



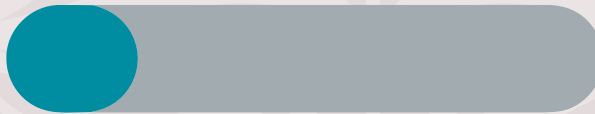
## Pacific Conference on Governance: Pacific Youth Spotlighting Anti- Corruption in Climate Change and Gender Equality

### SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

**Approximately 50% of respondents/attendees during the Conference were between the ages of 25-34.**

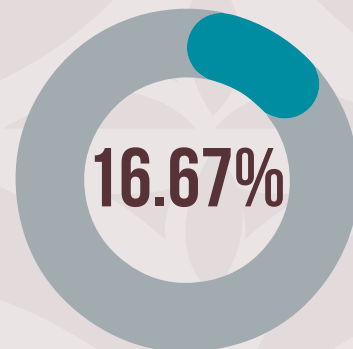


**22%**



**of the respondents/attendees were between 18-24.**

**Respondents between 35-44 was at approximately 16.67%**



**5.56%**



**Both the age groups of 45-54, and 55-64 were at 5.56%**

## GENERAL FEEDBACK

### How would you rate the overall conference?

- ◆ 55.56% of the respondents rated the conference 5 out of 5 Stars
- ◆ 27.78% of the respondents rated the conference 4 out of 5 Stars
- ◆ 16.67% of the respondents rated the conference 3 out of 5 Stars

The overall rating for the Conference was 4.3 Stars

### Favorite session/moment from the conference?

- ◆ Approximately 72.22% of respondents mentioned the Plenary Session “Dialogue with Pacific Youth. Will Corruption break climate change response efforts and what can be done by youth?” as their favorite session from the conference.
- ◆ 66.67% of the respondents viewed the following 3 sessions as their favorite “Remarks by the Hon. Ministers, Diplomats, Delegates, Speakers during the Official Opening session”, the “Panel Discussion: Where to from here? Working in unity with each other to deliver our resilient and sustainable Blue Pacific” and “Workshop 1: The role of education in advancing good governance and gender equality in the Pacific”
- ◆ Approximately 55.56% of the respondents mentioned “The Plenary session: The corruption and climate change: challenges and opportunities in the Blue Pacific”.
- ◆ 50% of the respondents chose Workshop 2 “The role of youth in fighting corruption towards advancing the 2050 Strategy and other anti-corruption instruments. The need for an integrated approach in the Pacific in the fight against corruption” and “the Launch of the Pacific Youth Advisory Board on Governance”, as their favorite sessions.
- ◆ The Plenary Session “How are corruption and gender related” was mentioned as the favorite session by 33.33% of the respondents.

### How can we improve our future events?

- ◆ Providing uniforms for the participants.
- ◆ Extension of the conference for one week.
- ◆ Smaller topic focused working groups. Regional Lessons Learnt presentations.
- ◆ Debate or mock parliament sessions.
- ◆ Inclusion of testimonials of those affected by climate change.
- ◆ Having more young people from difference Pacific Island.
- ◆ Have a panel discussion with many youths representing their Pacific Island nation and talk about issues since it's a youth conference.
- ◆ Get more experienced people to share their practical stories.





- ◆ Allocated times to difference sessions, i.e. have sessions already in the middle of the first day, after lunch to get people discussion and know each other bit more from the beginning.

### **Would you attend a Conference of similar nature in the future?**

- ◆ A majority 100% respondents mentioned yes to attending a similar conference in the future.

### **How satisfied were you with the Conference?**

- ◆ A majority of respondents gave the Conference a 5 out of 5 Stars at 55.56% with their satisfaction with the conference.
- ◆ 27.78% of the respondents gave 4 out of 5 Stars as their satisfaction rating of the conference.
- ◆ 16.67% of the respondents gave 3 out of 5 Stars for their satisfaction rating.





# Part F

## IMPACT & OPPORTUNITIES





## Impacts

1. The Pacific Youth Movement that has existed under the Strengthening Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in the Pacific region (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project) and the UN-PRAC Project has had an outreach of more than 30,000 through Social Media Engagements and in-person attendance at the different projects and events that took place all over the Pacific region.
2. Unprecedented Media presence was noted at all events, with Head of State (President of Fiji), Government Ministers and Heads of CROP Agencies taking part in the events organized under the two projects.
3. Female participation grew to 70% from 65% in the previous project period as noted during events undertaken from August 2022 to June 2023.
4. New levels of cooperation and partnership between youth, CROP Agencies, Government and non-governmental stakeholders due to the Governance Conference and the launch of the Youth Advisory Board.
5. Marginalized groups were given space to voice concerns and issues and access information.
6. After the adoption of the Youth Vision for a Corruption Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific, next Cause of Action and Action Plans were recognized and implementation strategies were identified, these are expected to be supported by CROP Agencies, i.e. Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Community as USPSA Progresses on the next steps.







## Summary of Opportunities

### 1. The Pacific Regional Youth Seminar and UNCAC 20 Celebrations

- ◆ Participants who had aided in forging the Youth Vision for Corruption- Resilient 2050 Blue Pacific during the Pacific Youth Summit, 2022, finally had an opportunity to break down and unpack each vision and better understand its importance
- ◆ First time experience for majority of the participants to hear a Head of State deliver remarks during an event which has been part of the Pacific Youth Movement.
- ◆ Female participants (they made up over 60% of the attendees) during their presentations were able to deliver remarks as an all-female (mock) government.
- ◆ Introductory narratives that explained next course of action plans for the Youth Vision were identified
- ◆ First opportunity where regionally documented anti-corruption tools (Teieniwa Vision, 2050 Strategy, Youth Vision) and the international anti-corruption tool, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption were celebrated, advocated and educated for, in unity in the Pacific.

### 2. Pacific Conference on Governance

- ◆ A first event under the Pacific Anti-Corruption Youth Movement to take place at such a scale with an unprecedented number of:
- ◆ Female Participants
- ◆ Diplomats/ Heads of Missions/ Academic Personnel/ Youths from various pacific island nations
- ◆ First time for an event to feature so many CROP Agencies under one conference
- ◆ Media coverage at a regional and international level
- ◆ First time for the Pacific region to spotlight issues of Anti- Corruption, Youth Participation, Climate Change, Gender Equality, Transparency, Accountability under one roof/ banner and engage in dialogue and discussion of next steps
- ◆ This Conference presented the perfect opportunity to launch the Youth Advisory Board, with the presence of many youths, pacific leaders, CROP agency members, and a member of the Youth Advisory Board, with the launch taking place in an historic course of action for the region



### 3. Youth Advisory Board (Launch)

- ◆ Youth voice and concerns finally can be represented to the Pacific Island Forum member states in a structured manner.
- ◆ Opportunities for Pacific youths to contribute towards establishing and governing a sustainable developed pacific.
- ◆ Educate and advocate youths on matters of governance by highlighting its importance through strategic partnerships with CROP agencies
- ◆ Board will assist in the promotion of the Teieniwa Vision

### 4. Scaling Up the Youth Voice on Anti-Corruption in the Cook Islands

(Pacific Anti-Corruption Youth Vision Advocacy and Policy Consultations)

- ◆ A first-time event under the Pacific Youth Movement, Strengthening Anti- Corruption, Transparency & Accountability took place in the Cook Islands and gave the participants a first-hand/face-to-face experience in the sessions they took part in, as opposed to joining via zoom
- ◆ Females made up majority of the attendees in the various sessions, which gave a rare opportunity for them to voice their ideas and garner knowledge on matters of critical concern in the pacific.
- ◆ The Cook Islands has been identified as a potential country of choice for the 3rd Pacific Youth Summit.





STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



# THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON GOVERNANCE

## Pacific Youth Spotighting Anti-Corruption in Climate Change and Gender Equality

Auckland, Aotearoa, New Zealand – 11 and 12 May 2023



Hon. Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Disarmament and Arms Control and Associate Māori Development, New Zealand



Hon. Lynda Tabuya, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji



Hon. Simon Kofe, Minister for Justice, Communication, and Foreign Affairs, Tuvalu



H.E. Eliam Tangirongo, High Commissioner of the Solomon Islands to New Zealand



H.E. Louisa Wall, Gender Equality (Pacific) / Tuia Tāngata



H.E. Jimmy Nippo, High Commissioner of Vanuatu to New Zealand (TBC)



H.E. Robert Aiono, High Commissioner of Samoa to New Zealand (Acting)



Mr. Henry Puna, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat



Prof. Pal Ahluwalia, USP Vice-Chancellor & President



Mr. Aholotu Palu, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company



Mr. Aneet Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, USPSA



Mr. Anga Timilsina, UNDP Global Anti-Corruption Adviser, Oslo Governance Centre



Ms. Belyndar Rikimani, member of the Pacific Youth Advisory Board, Solomon Islands



Mr. David Vaeafe, Executive Director, Pacific Cooperation Foundation



Prof. Elisabeth Holland, Director, Pacific Center for Environment and Sustainable Development, USP



Ms. Elizabeth Kite, Founder of Take the Lead Tonga and She Leads Parliament, Tonga



Dr. Gerardo Berthin, Vice President of International Programs, Freedom House, Washington, D.C.



Ms. Irene Olkerii, Founder of Palau Entrepreneurs of Growth



Ms. Mariam Mathew, Transparency International Pacific



Dr. Milla Vaha, Senior Lecturer in Politics & International Affairs, USP



Ms. Minnie Kalo Voi, Youth activist and advocate, PNG/Cook Islands



Ms. Salanieta Kitoleilei, Indigenous Fijian doctoral candidate at USP



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Organized under the Strengthening Anticorruption, Transparency and Accountability in Pacific Island Countries (Pacific Anti-Corruption Project) funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, and the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAAC), funded by the Government of New Zealand.







