

Youth Leaders Finalize Policy Platform Focusing on Disability Rights, Education, and Youth

The [University of the South Pacific Students' Association](#) (USPSA), in partnership with the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) and the [International Foundation for Electoral Systems](#) (IFES), has developed a policy platform with priorities for change in the areas of disability rights, education, and youth. Student and young leaders from Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have worked on identifying policy priorities since March 2021.

USAID Acting Mission Director for the Philippines, Pacific Islands, and Mongolia, Sean Callahan, lauded the initiative, stating, "USAID recognizes that the youth are important agents for positive change and is proud to partner with USPSA and IFES to empower young leaders across the Pacific Islands region."

Student and youth leaders from across the region began implementing their policy platform areas on July 1, providing recommendations about inclusive participation of persons with disabilities and young people, and inclusive, COVID-19-responsive education across the Pacific Islands region. An article detailing the policy platform can be found at <http://electionaccess.org/en/resources/publications/696/>.

The USPSA will be regularly sharing updates on policy platform implementation, including a final report, via social media and email.

The USPSA greatly appreciates the support of USP Academics from School of Law and Social Sciences (SoLaSS), who contributed to the inaugural session of this policy platform earlier this year.

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