



Decent Work for Sustainable Development in the Pacific¹

Tripartite High-Level Meeting

8–9 February 2010, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Information Note

Background

1. The Tripartite Technical Meeting on Decent Work: Pacific Island Countries, (November 2007) reviewed progress with decent work in Pacific Island countries and agreed to “pursue a bottom-up approach where national policies and priorities are defined in country through the development of Decent Work Country Programmes and then put together into a regional framework for the Pacific Island member States.”²
2. Following this meeting, the ILO has supported the process of formulating DWCPs for all the member States in the Pacific. In preparing these DWCPs, the ILO Office in Suva has worked closely with the tripartite constituents throughout the entire process.
3. The above-mentioned Tripartite Technical Meeting also acknowledged the need for a “*high-level Pacific meeting to gain political commitment and strengthen partnership for the implementation of the DWCPs and the sub-regional decent work strategy*”. This note provides more information on the objectives and outcomes of the planned high-level tripartite Pacific meeting.
4. Pacific Island countries have a history of regional cooperation in matters of common interest in economic development, social progress and labour market governance. In October 2005, Pacific leaders adopted a regional framework, “The Pacific Plan”, with the aims of enhancing economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security in the Pacific through regional initiatives.³ In July 2006, the Pacific Island Forum Economic Ministers acknowledged the role of labour market policies and legislation in ‘propelling economic development’, and the importance of both national and regional policy-

¹ Information Note as at 25.11.2009.

² Tripartite Technical Meeting on Decent Work: Pacific Island Countries, Summary Outcomes of the Meeting http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/events/lang-en/docName--WCMS_098981/index.htm, Fiji: 26–28 November 2007

³ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (2007): *The Pacific Plan, For Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration*. First published October 2005, revised October 2007.

making in addressing labour market issues.⁴ At the August 2009 Pacific Island Forum meeting, PICs agreed to the Cairns Compact On Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific and the Recommendations for Progressing the Pacific Plan, with the aims of improving economic opportunities and employment generation in the region.⁵

5. The High-Level meeting will take into account the above regional developments in discussing the “Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work”. This Action Plan will be derived from the DWCPs, which were agreed to by the tripartite constituents at the national level. The High-Level Meeting will immediately precede the UN Pacific Conference on “The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis,” 10–12 February 2010 Vanuatu.”
6. The meeting will be preceded by consultation and capacity building workshops for Employers’ and Workers’ organizations in the subregion (5–6 February 2010 Vanuatu).

Objectives and outcomes of the meeting

7. The objectives of the meeting are:
 - To identify constraints and opportunities to promote implementation of DWCPs, in particular in light of the global economic crisis and climate change;
 - To agree on the “Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work”; and
 - To provide inputs to the UN Pacific Conference on “The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis,” and to the forthcoming ILO Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM).
8. The expected outcomes of this meeting include:
 - Improved capacity of tripartite constituents to implement, monitor and further develop their DWCPs; and
 - Tripartite conclusions, including agreement on the “Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work,” to support the DWCPs and the priority areas for joint capacity building.

Technical documentation

9. Prior to the meeting, the following documents will be prepared and circulated:
 - DWCPs for all ILO Pacific Island member States;
 - The draft “Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work,” including project concept notes;
 - Country briefs; and

⁴ Pacific Islands Forum, Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, Honiara, Solomon Islands, 3–5 July 2006, Forum Economic Action Plan 2006: 5.

⁵ Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (2009): Forum Communiqué, Fortieth Pacific Islands Forum, Cairns, Australia, 5–6 August 2009. See in particular Annex B: Cairns Compact On Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific; Annex C: Recommendations for Progressing the Pacific Plans.

- Technical Paper – ‘Labour market scenarios and Decent Work Country Programmes in Pacific Island Countries in the context of the global economic crisis and climate change.’

Meeting venue and timing

10. The meeting will be conducted in Port Villa, Vanuatu from 8 to 9 February 2010 at Le Lagon Resort, immediately before the UN Pacific Conference on “The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis,” in which the ILO will take an active part. Prior to the tripartite meeting 2 day capacity building and consultation workshops for workers’ and employers’ organizations will be held.
11. A draft agenda for the meeting is attached.

Meeting structure and methodology

12. The meeting will be organized into a Technical Meeting on 8 February and a Ministerial Meeting on 9 February. The Technical Meeting will be attended by workers’ and employers’ organization representatives and Senior Labour Ministry participants. In addition to the participants at the Technical Meeting, the Ministerial Meeting will include Labour Ministers and development partners.
13. The meeting will be organized in a number of technical sessions, comprising introduction and context setting, country presentations on DWCPs, discussion and agreement on the “Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work,” presentation of papers on sustainable recovery from the global economic crisis, panel discussions, drafting and adoption of conclusions.
14. Chairing responsibilities for technical sessions will be shared on a tripartite basis. Workers’ and Employers’ organizations will be asked to identify representatives for these responsibilities during their consultation and capacity building workshops on 5 and 6 February. Government representatives will be asked to identify participants for these responsibilities during their registration and planning meeting on 7 February. The involvement of Labour Ministers in the meeting will be coordinated by the ILO subsequent to confirmation of attendance.
15. The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries located in Suva, Fiji will act as Secretariat for the meeting.

Participants

16. Participants will be invited from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. For each of these countries, invitations will be extended to the Labour Ministers, a Senior Labour Ministry official, the President or National Secretary of the Workers’ organization and the President of the Employers’ organization. Development partners, including the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, other United Nations agencies, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, certain donor countries and the European

Union will also be invited to attend as observers. The participation of women in the meeting is strongly encouraged.

Country presentations

17. During the Technical Meeting on 8 February the country delegations from Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu will be asked to make a 15 minute presentation on their respective DWCP. These presentations should highlight outcomes already realized under their DWCP and any restrictions or hindrances on their full implementation of the DWCP in the future. It is expected that the government, worker and employer representatives for each country will consult on this presentation and determine which member of the tripartite should present the country's position at the meeting.

Travel information

An Administrative Note providing details on travel arrangements, hotel bookings and travel allowances will be provided upon confirmation by delegates of their attendance at the meeting.

Contact Addresses

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