

Tripartite High-Level Meeting: Decent Work for Sustainable Development in the Pacific

8-9 February 2010, Vanuatu

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.”¹
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.² 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-making in addressing labour market issues.³ 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.⁴
5. The High-Level meeting will take into account the above regional developments in discussing a Regional Implementation Plan for decent work and will be held in conjunction with the High- Level UN Pacific Conference on “The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis in the Pacific: Impacts and responses- Vanuatu 10-12 2010”.
6. The High-Level meeting will be preceded by consultation and capacity development workshops for Employers’ and Workers’ organizations in the subregion (5-6 February 2009).

¹ 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

² Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (2007): *The Pacific Plan, For Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration*. First published October 2005, revised October 2007.

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

⁴ 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.

Objectives and outcomes of the meeting

7. The objectives of the tripartite 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 a Regional Implementation Plan;
 - To provide inputs to the High-Level UN Pacific Conference 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;
 - Tripartite conclusions, including agreement on the regional implementation plan to support the DWCPs and priority areas for joint capacity building.

Technical preparations

9. Prior to the meeting, the following documents will be prepared and circulated:
- DWCPs of all ILO Pacific Island member States;
 - A draft regional implementation plan for the Pacific Island member States, including project concept notes;
 - Country briefs;
 - 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. It is proposed to conduct the meeting in Vanuatu from 8 to 9 February 2010 immediately before the High-Level UN meeting in which the ILO will participate actively. Prior to the tripartite meeting a 2-days capacity building & consultation for workers’ and employers’ organizations will be held.
11. Tentative meeting structure

Thursday 4 February 2010 Arrival of employers’ & workers’ representatives
Friday 5 & Saturday 6 February 2010 – Workers, Employers Meetings Provide an opportunity for (a) capacity building led by the ILO Suva, ACTRAV and ACTEMP and (b) constituents groups to meet and prepare for the High-Level Meeting
Sunday 7 February 2010 Arrival of senior Labour Ministry officials
Monday 8 February 2010 – High-Level Meeting Panel and group discussions on constraints and opportunities to promote implementation of the DWCPs, common issues for inclusion in regional implementation plan - Senior Officials’ meeting to draft conclusions Arrival of Labour Ministers
Tuesday 9 February 2010 – High-Level Meeting Morning: High-Level Panel Discussion – Labour market scenarios and DWCPs Afternoon: Discussion and adoption of tripartite Conclusions
Wednesday 10 February to Friday 12 February Selected constituents to participate in the UN meeting