

CONCEPT NOTE COP24 KORONIVIA AND PACIFIC PAVILLION

Title: CO-BENEFITS OF DECENT WORK and SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES in the PACIFIC

Themes: Agriculture | Decent Work

Format: High-Level Dialogue – a panel discussion with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and Pacific Countries

Date: Friday 14th December 9am-10am [60 minutes]

Place: Koronivia Pavilion, room capacity: 56 people. Venue map attached.

Moderator: Mr. *Zitouni Oulddada* - Deputy Director Climate and Environment Division (Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Panel Speakers:

1. Excellency *Ali'ioiga Feturi*, Chief Executive Officer and Ambassador, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa
2. Mr *Moustapha Kamal Gueye*, Coordinator Green Jobs, ILO
3. Mr *Bambang Susantono*, Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
4. Mr *Kosi Latu*, Director Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
5. Mr *Steven Turnbull*, Negotiator, Australia
6. Ms *Alysha Bagasra*, Negotiator, New Zealand

CO-BENEFITS OF DECENT WORK and SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

Under the COP23 Presidency, the Conference of the Parties adopted [decision 4/CP.23](#) on the 'Koronivia joint work on agriculture'. The socioeconomic dimension of climate change in the agricultural sector was identified as a key issue. *This high-level Talanoa dialogue will discuss examples from the Pacific region that show: (i) transformative initiatives that foster jobs that are green and decent; and (ii) co-benefits of decent work for Pacific countries economic diversification into smart, sustainable agriculture practices.*

Pacific rural populations, particularly those in remote areas with limited access, basic infrastructure and services, lack information, knowledge or resources to act by themselves. They lack the capacity to plant different crops, learn new practices, access new inputs, monitor climate and environment to maximize yields. Furthermore, investments generated to mitigate and adapt to climate change may not target better jobs in agriculture, particularly for *youth, women and disadvantage groups*. *The high-*

level dialogue will discuss examples where target groups are included and what are the co-benefits of the approach.

The COP23 Presidency has stressed the need for ambition to address the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of quality jobs through the formation of a working group on the interlinkages of climate change, job creation and decent work. Under the WG action plan, **vulnerable sectors** such as agriculture that operate under 5 metres above sea level, or on river banks, should have dedicated just transition plans to assist a transformation to more knowledge intensive practices with quality jobs. *The high-level dialogue will share good practices of how incentives can be designed together with local stakeholders to include acceptable practices for vulnerable communities, involving informal workers into the process.*

The Pacific Island region outperforms the Asia region in agriculture. However, many of the jobs fall into the category of **vulnerable employment**: across the Pacific Islands, 24.7 % of employment is classified as ‘vulnerable’¹. Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu are the top 2 countries having vulnerable employment at around 75%, with a large reliance on agriculture. With increasing awareness of the role of agriculture practices in food security, more attention is being devoted to how the sector can generate decent jobs through new areas such as clean energy and sustainable agriculture practices. Wind, solar and biomass energy can be ‘harvested’ forever. Renewable energy could be used on the farm to replace fossil fuels and to provide solutions for water utilization. *The high-level dialogue will enable the Pacific States and other countries to discuss examples of greening jobs and skills for smart and sustainable agriculture practices as a transformative approach that connects different actors from labour-education-environment portfolios for local economic diversification.*

Following the recommendations of CAPP 2018 WG, this High-level Dialogue was discussed by Pacific Countries’ representatives during the ILO Pacific Knowledge Sharing Dialogue on Decent Work and Climate Resilience to be held in Apia, 7-9 November 2018 (see key messages from the Dialogue in annex).

Contact Persons:

¹ Includes own-account workers and contributing family workers from the ILO Status of Employment data. ILO Pacific Islands Factsheet 2018.

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ANNEX

KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM FOR JUST TRANSITION, DECENT WORK AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC BIG OCEAN STATES (BOS)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Participants from 11 Pacific Island countries ([Cook Islands](#), [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Palau](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Republic of the Marshall Islands](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#) and [Vanuatu](#)) attended the inaugural Knowledge Sharing Dialogue on Just Transition, Decent Work and Climate Resilience in the Pacific Islands, Apia, Samoa, 7-9 November 2018.
2. The Dialogue is an outcome of the 2017 ILO Future of Work Forum in Suva, Fiji. This Forum found there would be value in specialised discussions among Pacific Island countries, especially as countries developed and implemented new climate initiatives. Participants also noted the decision of the Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) to launch a Working Group that recognised the priority of the intersection between climate change and the world of work through an 8-point action plan (see [Annex 1](#)).
3. Participants provided expert presentations on their national best practices on green jobs and climate resilience. Participants welcomed the case study presented on Samoa's experience on tripartism and social dialogue and thanked the Government of Samoa for the opportunity to undertake a field visit, including the planting of 200 trees, which was a practical contribution to sustainability in the host country.
4. Participants agreed on the value of dialogue and sharing best practices on green jobs and climate resilience. Pacific Island countries are strongly affected by the impacts of climate change and often work in isolation from global information and policy trends, but their small size and strong local communities mean they also have the agility to implement systems and programmes quicker than larger countries, for example circular economy systems. Knowledge sharing can provide a "window" into the actions of other countries, create valuable opportunities to implement those best practices and ensure policy coherence within national context.
5. Participants raised numerous themes where climate change and the world of work intersect in the Pacific region, which are listed in [Annex II](#). These included the need for sustainable employment in agriculture and the link to food security; ensuring skills matching between young people and available jobs; and capacity building for constituents on green jobs and decent work policy, and gender equality. The lack of local, sustainable employment associated with climate change related projects, including suitable maintenance service positions, and the importance of employment schemes, was also discussed.
6. Participants discussed how knowledge-sharing could be best enhanced, noting the need to ensure any new platform complemented existing work and didn't impose on local communities. Participants stated that a knowledge-sharing platform, either as an additional component to an existing platform or as a new platform, would be valuable for Pacific Island countries looking to ensure climate policies and projects align with employment opportunities.

7. Participants also discussed the value of annual face-to-face Dialogues, which could help deepen understanding of other countries' policies and ensure participants could further develop strategies to link climate change and the world of work. Participants suggested that it would be useful for Dialogues to be rotated around Pacific Island countries and be focused on different topics, with could be led by different Pacific Island countries. The knowledge-sharing platform could also develop outputs linked to each year's theme which countries could use to assist national policy and project development.
8. Participants noted that Pacific Island countries are taking a leading role in acting on climate change, and suggested a knowledge sharing platform could help highlight the ambition of the Big Ocean States (BOS). Participants also noted that messages from the Pacific Island countries at the International Labour Conference could be enhanced. A draft Terms of Reference for establishing the BOS Knowledge Sharing Platform was also noted.
9. Participants, the ILO and supporting experts thanked the Government of Samoa for hosting the event.

ACTIONS

1. The International Labour Organisation was invited to facilitate the process of establishing a BOS Knowledge Sharing Platform on Just Transition, Decent Work and Climate Resilience (BOS KSP). This process would investigate and determine the comparative suitability of a separate platform or an add-on to an existing platform.
2. Participants to nominate proposed themes of work their countries would contribute to from the identified regional priorities (see [Annexes](#)) for the BOS KSP.
3. Participants and the ILO were invited to work together to determine a suitable host and theme for a second Dialogue in 2019. Kiribati offered to host the 2019 Dialogue, Cook Islands the 2020 Dialogue, and Vanuatu in 2021.
4. The ILO was invited to consider developing a more specific and Pacific Island focused assessment of green jobs, sustainable employment and the connection between climate change and the future of work.
5. Participants were invited to consider what gaps may inhibit the collection of employment data associated with climate change related projects in their countries to share and discuss at next Dialogue in Kiribati in 2019.



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ANNEX 1.1: CLIMATE ACTION PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CAPP) - 8 POINT ACTION PLAN

1. Through the Pacific voice and the Fiji Presidency, COP23 should recognize into the UNFCCC process the priority of **climate change intersecting with the world of work**. This includes all economic sectors, all economic activities, and all stakeholders (governments, employers, workers, civic society).
2. This WG should contribute to the **adaptation and mitigation committees** of UNFCCC –and actively participate in the review process.
3. Actions should be designed into work places to increase climate resilience as it impacts **security, peace and stability**. The impact of climate change events can lead to unemployment and internal/external migration which affect business activities and job security which can lead to conflict.
4. Financial mechanisms and interventions (GEF, GCF, multi-funding) shall include decent **local employment generation and skills development** as a key target for all the investments generated to mitigate and adapt to climate change while reducing unemployment, particularly for youth, women and disadvantage groups.
5. **Vulnerable** sectors (e.g. agriculture, tourism, building and construction, fishing, water, health, transport) that operate under 5 metres over the sea level or in the river banks will need a **dedicated just transition planning** to assist with business relocation, employment mobility and displacement in some cases. Dedicated financial resources should be allocated to design incentives together with local stakeholders that can include locally acceptable practices (cultural aspects) for vulnerable communities and informal workers into the process.
6. The **Just transition framework** shall be applied to high emitters and high polluting industry sectors to plan for employment mobility as economic activity in these sectors decrease.
7. Dedicated planning should be devised to take advantage of the **opportunities for decent job creation and green entrepreneurship** activities in all economic sectors but particularly in the environmental goods and services sector which can both help to mitigate and to adapt to climate change.
8. The WG, as initiated in the Pacific shall be inclusive in the **spirit of talanoa** and include governments (Ministries of labour, environment, others, employers, workers, and other stakeholders with also specialized UN agencies such as ILO).

ANNEX 1.2: KEY EMPLOYMENT-ENVIRONMENT PRIORITIES FROM THE PACIFIC REGION

- Sustainable agriculture and food security
- Renewable energy
- Water management and sanitation
- Waste management
- Tourism
- Circular Economy
- Ocean management and fisheries
- Capacity-building for tripartite constituents and communities
- Policy design and implementation
- Local, sustainable employment from climate change investment projects
- Appropriate regulatory and legislative frameworks
- Building entrepreneurship
- Developing of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
- Skills-matching for youth
- Training for the informal sector
- Development of business continuity plans
- Disaster risk reduction
- Data collection and management
- Women's workforce participation
- Climate change awareness in schools