

PACIFIC REGIONAL
EXPERIENCE-SHARING WORKSHOP ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS



OUTCOME DOCUMENT

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO THE PACIFIC

20-22 NOVEMBER 2023
APIA, SAMOA



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
TREATY BODIES



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Pacific Regional Office

unicef 

for every child

United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

Follow-Up Visit to the Pacific

13-22 November 2023

Apia, Samoa

Outcome Document

To encapsulate the positive outcomes over the course of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's first ever Follow-Up Visit to the Pacific, and to envision a pathway forward for Pacific Island Countries,

Participants from Pacific Island Country Governments agree on the importance and value of:

- Accelerating efforts to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including through improved follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- Committing to translate and disseminate widely the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to relevant stakeholders at all levels, and to convene consultations with government stakeholders, civil society, children and young people to develop costed national plans, concrete action points and timelines to follow-up on and implement these recommendations and monitor their implementation;
- Reaffirming their commitment, demonstrated by existing good practices, to protect children's rights in the Pacific, including with respect to the issues discussed during the visit of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, such as prohibition of corporal punishment and promotion of positive and non-violent forms of discipline; protection of children from domestic violence, sexual exploitation and abuse; children's rights in the child justice system; climate change, environment and the rights of the child; and emerging issues such as children in the digital environment;
- Continuing the positive engagement and peer-to-peer learning amongst Pacific Island Countries on good practices and challenges to make better progress on the implementation of international standards of children's rights;
- Continuing to enhance Pacific Island Countries' engagement with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, including by reporting under the simplified reporting procedure (where applicable), implementation and follow-up, and continuing to invite international experts for visits to the countries in the region to facilitate stakeholder engagement;
- Committing to establishing and strengthening 'National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up' (NMIRF), in accordance with the Pacific Principles on NMIRFs, to facilitate a coordinated and comprehensive approach to follow-up and implementation of Human Rights Mechanisms' recommendations, including those emanating from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;

- Committing to creating an enabling environment and platforms for multi-stakeholder engagement and for improved ownership of children’s rights at the regional, sub-regional, national and community levels, including through collaboration with parents, communities, traditional and religious authorities, and other relevant stakeholders;
- Proactively engaging with international and regional partners such as the Pacific Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNICEF Pacific, and the Pacific Community (SPC) to seek technical assistance and capacity-building for improved engagement with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and enhanced implementation of the Convention and of the recommendations of the Committee;
- Rising up to the challenge to make best use of the Committee’s [general comment no. 26](#) on children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change, and to keep children’s rights and child participation at the forefront of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels; and
- Committing to champion children’s rights and wellbeing in the Pacific, reaffirming their commitment to international standards on the protection and promotion of all children’s rights in all circumstances.

The participants from the Governments of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, acknowledge the positive outcomes of the “Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on Implementation of Recommendations” on 20-22 November 2023 as part of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child’s Follow-Up Visit to the Pacific and acknowledge and thank the Committee for the first ever follow-up visit by a treaty body to the region.

The representatives of the Governments of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Tuvalu, further acknowledge the positive engagements and outcomes throughout the Country Visits undertaken by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child between 13-17 November 2023 as part of its Follow Up Visit to the Pacific.

Taking note of the positive exchanges, and active engagement and commitment of the Government participants throughout the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Follow-Up Visit to the Pacific, Organizations who supported the organization of the visit reaffirm their commitment to continue supporting Pacific Island Countries and providing technical assistance and capacity-building for Pacific stakeholders’ improved engagement with the Committee, and enhanced implementation of the Convention and of the recommendations the Committee.