

**FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**  
(24–26 July 2017, Noumea, New Caledonia)

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**AGENDA ITEM No. 4: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PACIFIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

**Summary**

1. SPC's contribution to implementing the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) 2014–2023 is relevant to two of the three goals articulated in SPC's Strategic Plan. Progress has been made against all PYDF indicators, with significant advances made in relation to statistics for development, youth entrepreneurship and climate change.
2. Funding and capacity resources have been leveraged through strategic partnerships and through efforts to mobilise further resources. Mapping has been used to identify gaps at regional and national level where these resources may be best focused.

**Recommendations**

3. CRGA is invited to:
  - i. note progress made in strengthening partnerships and sharing resources for implementing the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF);
  - ii. endorse the secretariat's proposal to mainstream youth issues through its development programmes;
  - iii. consider the need for additional, dedicated and focused resources and capacity to support the implementation of the PYDF.

## **PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PACIFIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

### **Purpose**

4. During the High-Level Dialogue on Youth at the Ninth Conference of the Pacific Community in 2015, members agreed that a report on progress in implementing the PYDF should be a standing agenda item at CRGA to enable the situation of youth to be monitored, to drive progress and to ensure commitment to relevant issues.
5. This paper reports on progress made since CRGA 46, highlights key areas of focus and points to issues that require a shared commitment from members.

### **Background**

6. CRGA 46 affirmed its support for progressing the PYDF in the context of regional prioritisation and recommended a focus on integration to enhance results in various sectors – particularly climate change, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and food security – by ensuring that programme outcomes have both economic and social outcomes that benefit young people and communities as a whole.
7. In considering the need for resources, CRGA 46 suggested that SPC coordinate with other regional agencies and development partners, and explore existing mechanisms and capacity, including at national level.
8. CRGA 46 also requested that a central agency, possibly the Pacific Youth Council, monitor the impact of mainstreaming youth issues in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs).

### **Progress of implementation**

9. The PYDF objective of strengthening access to and use of statistics in policy development and monitoring of progress contributes to SPC Goal 1. The PYDF aims to support PICTs to institutionalise youth indicators in national surveillance tools so relevant data on the status of youth can be collected and analysed. SPC has developed a multi-agency partnership to pool resources to prepare the 2016 State of Pacific Youth report and establish a regional set of youth indicators. The draft indicators align with the Sustainable Development Goals, the global Youth Development Index and the PYDF.
10. SPC will work with the United Nations Working Group on Youth, led by UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), the Commonwealth Secretariat and Pacific Youth Council (PYC) to finalise and launch these two key documents in 2017. The conceptual framework for youth indicators was presented at the regional workshop on core statistics/indicators of development including the Pacific Headline Sustainable Development Goals indicators.
11. Most efforts under the PYDF contribute to SPC Goal 2. SPC has been mapping service delivery and development assistance to identify which youth populations are benefitting and where there are gaps. Consolidation of this information will support governments' bilateral and multilateral negotiations and inform national budgeting processes.

12. To date, mapping has focused on services and development assistance that support youth entrepreneurship. Governments and private sector institutions are working within various policy frameworks to deliver a range of services in support of youth entrepreneurship. However, for the eight countries surveyed, all showed significant gaps and only partial coverage in overall service delivery, indicating the need for further development assistance, particularly to improve coordination between private/public partnerships and with civil society, and for in-depth research and assessment. All countries noted that young women, rural youth and youth with disabilities were the key groups most in need of targeted services.
13. SPC has supported several initiatives to strengthen youth networks to ensure that key populations of youth are represented in decision-making processes. Through its standing partnership with PYC, SPC hosts the PYC Secretariat and provides administrative support and mentoring. A grant to support its governance structure and sustainability planning has enabled PYC to provide assistance to 10 National Youth Councils, including capacity-building opportunities and advocacy, and to facilitate partnerships to support objectives at country level. Most significantly, Young Entrepreneurs Councils established in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga serve as networks for young entrepreneurs.
14. The US Department of State has provided resources to SPC to support the establishment of a network for LGBTI youth and their engagement in policy dialogues. This support will be directed towards ending stigmatisation, discrimination and violence against LGBTI youth in the Pacific region.
15. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Comic Relief, PLAN International, the Canada Fund, and the British High Commission in Solomon Islands have supported continued expansion and development of SPC's Youth@Work programme in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Niue. The programme targets young people who are out of education, employment or training, and works to provide internship, mentorship and entrepreneurship support. The pilot programmes in Niue and Vanuatu are being absorbed into government strategies and Solomon Islands will execute an exit strategy over the next two years.
16. Young people have been assisted to lead their own initiatives through support for entrepreneurship, networking, advocacy, and communication on NCDs. Their advocacy role serves to monitor the impact of mainstreaming youth issues in PICTs. Young people were represented at the Dialogue between Forum Economic Ministers and Civil Society Organisations and the Pacific Civil Society Organising Mechanism (PACCOM) Dialogue, and at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
17. Through partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Labour Organisation, SPC and PYC were able bring young entrepreneurs, government officials and private sector representatives from eight PICTs together to determine strategic guidance and recommendations for economic policy-making and development planning to generate decent work opportunities, leading to robust, inclusive and poverty-reducing growth.

18. Concerted efforts were made to integrate youth issues across various sectors, particularly climate change, disaster risk management and NCDs. Solomon Islands requested a 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Finance Assessment' to provide clarity on national climate change and disaster risk financing and identify opportunities to strengthen country systems to facilitate enhanced access to support and broader development goals. The assessment included a specific pillar on Gender and Social Inclusion to take account of issues relating to gender inequality, youth development and engagement, and inclusion of people with disabilities and other marginalised groups. SPC carried out this part of the assessment. Including socio-economic factors in the assessment will provide strategic guidance for the development of well-integrated programmes with transformative and shared benefits for women, youth and people with disabilities. The assessment is supported by PIFS (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat) in partnership with SPC, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), and in collaboration with USAID (United States Agency for International Development), DFAT, SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme) and PFTAC (Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre).
19. The KfW Development Bank's package for areas in Vanuatu and Tuvalu affected by TC Pam has integrated social engagement components in two multi-hazard mapping and early-warning system responses. In Vanuatu, work has started to engage young people and *kastom* leaders in facilitating community engagement to inform evacuation routes and emergency response practices.
20. Given that two thirds of premature deaths in adults are associated with childhood conditions or behaviours initiated in youth (World Health Organization), SPC has developed a Youth and NCDs project, funded by the French Fund for Economic, Social and Cultural Cooperation in the Pacific, to strengthen the role of young people in shaping new norms and expectations leading to social transformation that will extend beyond their age group. The project is being implemented in partnership with UNDP.

### Challenges

21. The advances made in integrating youth issues in a range of programmes highlight the need to increase capacity in social development across SPC programmes to ensure sufficient time can be given to programme areas as well as to the core work for youth.
22. While PYC has made significant achievements through its partnership with SPC, the Council requires core funds and increased capacity to sustain its position as the regional youth focal point and representative voice in regional development agendas. PYC is exploring potential support through the Non State Actors Programme implemented by PIFS.

### Priorities for action

23. SPC will strengthen partnerships and leverage and mobilise resources to incorporate youth indicators in national surveillance tools. Further to this, SPC's Statistics for Development Divisions is also working closely with regional and international stakeholders to develop Pacific headline indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure the youth dimension is taken into account.
24. As part of its ongoing prioritisation process, the Secretariat's intention is to focus its capacity and resources in the youth sector on mainstreaming youth through its development programmes. Potential programme areas, such as youth employment and entrepreneurship or youth engagement, will only be developed if project funding can be mobilised. This will allow the secretariat to focus its core resources on internal mainstreaming of youth issues so as to enhance overall development effectiveness.
25. As part of this mainstreaming, SPC's programmes will be assisted to develop and implement strategies for engaging youth in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk management.

## **Conclusion**

26. The PYDF remains a relevant framework for addressing youth issues in the Pacific. However, resource constraints mean that its implementation cannot be the work of SPC. As raised by country delegations at CRGA 46, the question remains whether youth issues are best addressed by countries themselves or through another international organisation.

## **Recommendations**

27. CRGA is invited to:

- i. note progress made in strengthening partnerships and sharing resources for implementing the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF);
- ii. endorse SPC's proposal to mainstream youth issues through its development programmes;
- iii. consider the need for additional, dedicated and focused resources and capacity to support the implementation of the PYDF.