



Pacific Partnership for the New Urban Agenda (PP-NUA) 2021 Virtual Pacific Urban Forum

Context

It is now more than two years since the Fifth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF5) was held in Nadi, Fiji, on the 1-3 July 2019. At PUF5, participating countries made voluntary commitments to implement the Pacific New Urban Agenda and ambitious sustainable urban development targets. Since PUF5, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on urban areas and livelihoods creating new global, regional, national and local development challenges that must be addressed. There is clearly a new need to accelerate action on the New Urban Agenda now and as we begin to recover post-pandemic.

The Pacific Partnership for the New Urban Agenda (PP-NUA) is a new regional partnership formed following PUF5. The PP-NUA is responding to the commitments of Pacific Urban Forum delegates to build and strengthen regional partnerships, and to increase resources and action towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

As part of PP-NUA's outreach, a series of activities are planned, the first of which was a webinar on Local Economic Development in the Pacific held in October 2020. We now propose a Virtual Pacific Urban Forum event which will provide a regional platform for discussion and knowledge sharing on the current state of progress and challenges towards sustainable urban development.

Event Purpose and Objectives

The Virtual Pacific Urban Forum is to be held on **Thursday 26 August 2021 at 11:00am Fiji Time**. The objectives of this forum are to:

- Formally launch the PP-NUA with Pacific country partners and regional urban practitioners.
- Assess the status of national PUF5 commitments across the Pacific region and hear updates on key urban development priorities and progress from country delegates.
- Identify key areas where the PP-NUA and individual members can support and accelerate PNUA implementation.
- Provide countries with a platform to share updates on their COVID-19 responses and recovery.
- Report on key outcomes from the UN-Habitat Pacific COVID-19 impact assessments and relevant policy recommendations on social equity, financing and informal settlements
- Have an open discussion on how Pacific country partners and the PP-NUA can best work to develop a program of support to implement voluntary commitments and sustainable urbanisation in the region.
- Advocate the financing and mobilisation of additional resources for urban development across the Pacific.



Regional Status Report

A Regional Status Report will be developed in the leadup to the event to form a baseline understanding on Pacific countries' progress towards their PUF5 commitments in achieving the PNUA. The report will also provide a list of priority/common development issues that countries have raised as areas in need to support, dialogue during VPUF will especially focus on such issues. Relevant resources will be distributed to partners and attendees in the leadup to the event. Inputs include:

- National level urban development country profiles.
- Updates on PUF5 commitments drawn from key informant interviews and analysis of country VNRs reports.
- Findings from consolidated UN-Habitat COVID-19 impact assessments.
- Other publications and repositories on Pacific urban development challenges.

Audience

Invitees will be representatives from the following agencies:

- PP-NUA Steering Committee members
- Pacific country partners and their representatives (national and local governments and other urban stakeholders including NGOs)
- Relevant United Nations organisations across the Pacific, including UN Women and UNDP (with representation from Solevaka who has been hosting PP-NUA's Community of Practice)
- Regional organisations in the Pacific including CROP (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific) organisations (SPC, SPREP etc.)
- International development organisation partners including Asian Development Bank and the World Bank
- Country development partners (e.g. EU, GIZ and other key agencies that have been actively supporting urban development in the Pacific)

Format

The VPUF Event will be held virtually via Zoom. The registration will be made available three weeks before the date via Google Forms. Optional fields will be provided for participants to outline additional details on their engagements with Pacific urban projects. This will allow PP-NUA to identify participants and agencies who might be interested in future collaborations on development projects.



Due to technological constraints such as network stability, a hybrid meeting arrangement can be set up where possible through Local Country Hubs (depending on local COVID-19 situation) in offices of local UN agencies, local institutions or government ministry offices that could provide more reliable internet connection for local attendees. For further information please contact the PPNUA Steering Committee at: unhabitat-puf@un.org.

For maximum accessibility and outreach a live stream on Facebook (via the Pacific Urban Platform Page) will be organised for broadcast.

Event Program

Date: 26th August 2021 | Time: 11:00am Fiji Time (GMT+12)

Chairperson: Steve Gawler (ICLEI)

| 1st half (1 hour and 30 minutes) | | Speakers |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Welcome | 5 minutes | Atsushi Koresawa, UN-Habitat <i>PM Tuvalu tbc</i> |
| Regional Urban Development Status Report and Recap PUF5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of key urban priorities based on the key findings from the discussion paper | 10 minutes | Alex Lee-Emery, UN ESCAP Sulki Hwang, UN ESCAP Chatnam Lee, PP-NUA |
| Country update presentations from delegates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hear from country representatives on their ongoing urban development successes and challenges. | 5 - 10 minutes each (~80 mins) | Pacific Country Representatives |
| Break (15m) | | |
| 2nd half (~ 2 hrs) | | |
| Introducing PP-NUA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the PP-NUA members, working pillars and objectives. Upcoming roadmap of work and call for suggestions from countries | 10 minutes | Karibaiti Taoaba, CLGF |
| Partnerships for Sustainable Urban Development in the Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PP-NUA partners to present successful ongoing urban development projects. | 45 minutes | PP-NUA Steering Committee Members |
| Round Table Discussion and Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How PP-NUA can best support urban partners in the Pacific region based on updates from countries Summary of key outcomes | 45 minutes - 1 hr | Jane Stanley, EAROPH Alexei Trundle, University of Melbourne |



| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <p>Round Up and Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report summarising key outcomes of VPUF will be distributed to partners • Closing remarks | <p>10 minutes</p> | <p>Bernhard Barth, UN Habitat</p> |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|

Proposed outputs/outcomes

Key outcomes and takeaways from VPUF include:

- Re-invigorate the implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda and country commitments to sustainable urban development in the Pacific region.
- Pacific country representatives share and learn from each others' progress towards their PUF5 commitments and identify areas for further collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Participants gain a better understanding of ongoing urban development and COVID-19 recovery challenges for countries in the pacific region.
- Participants are more aware of the PP-NUA and work of partners, as well as the support and expertise they can offer to Pacific communities.
- The upcoming PP-NUA roadmap and work programme is more responsive to the urban development needs of Pacific stakeholders.

Key Outputs from VPUF:

- A report to summarise outcomes and key findings from the event, to be distributed to participants via email and on the Solevaka Community of Practice.
- A PP-NUA urban development calendar listing upcoming multi-stakeholder events and platforms to be distributed to participants via email and on the Solevaka Community of Practice.

Longer-term action planning post-VPUF:

- Further planning of the 2021/22 PP-NUA work programme based on event outcomes.
- Development of an informal settlements/housing strategy, on a needs basis based on feedback from the VPUF.
- The delivery of a capacity building and expert webinar series on the implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda and closer collaboration with regional partners.

Contact

For more information on PP-NUA or this event, please contact the PP-NUA working group at unhabitat-puf@un.org or Bernhard Barth, Human Settlements Officer at UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) at bernhard.barth@un.org.