

SUMMARY REPORT



PACIFIC URBAN FORUM

5-7 September 2023

SUVA, FIJI



Facilitated by the Pacific Urban Partnership

Hosted by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat & the Government of the Republic of Fiji



6th Pacific Urban Forum Summary Report



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Foreword

It is my pleasure to introduce this report on the outcomes of the 6th Pacific Urban Forum, on behalf of the members of the Pacific Urban Partnership. This report culminates a nearly two year journey of planning, stakeholder input, and support by a wide range of partners from across the Blue Pacific, including global development partners, national governments, CROP agencies, and civil society.

Both the world and the Blue Pacific have changed dramatically since the last Pacific Urban Forum was held in Nadi in July of 2019. The continuing acceleration of climate-related disasters, paired with underlying shifts in climatic and associated environmental norms, was for a time overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whilst COVID-19 has by no means gone away, we now face a concurrence of multiple shocks and stresses with often unexpected outcomes. Armed conflicts and global economic disruptions often far from the Pacific are driving fluctuations in inflation, fuel shortages, and shifting patterns of migration in a post-lockdown world continue to wreak havoc on labor supplies and associated economic opportunities.

Amongst this milieu of impacts, increasingly referred to as the 'polycrisis', is urbanization. This global phenomenon is continuing or resuming post-Pandemic, including within the Pacific, with associated development challenges continuing to call for global attention. The housing crisis being faced globally is compounded within the Pacific, where affordability of housing continues to decrease while poverty thresholds in the region's cities and towns increase in line with inflationary pressures on food and fuel.

Climate shocks such as cyclones, flooding, and even wildfires are increasingly being shown to be locking Pacific Island Countries and Territories in a loop of GDP loss and recovery as governments and households alike repeatedly rebuild infrastructure and livelihoods. The pressures to rural livelihoods – such as saline ingress into crop areas, and coastal inundation of low-lying settlements – is at the same time beginning to be observed in rural-to-urban migration patterns, with cities and towns offering crucial adaptation pathways.

The communities of the urban Blue Pacific are, however, remarkably resilient. The challenge remains one of how best to leverage these distinctly Oceanic urban systems, strengths, and structures in the face of global pressures and change.

The 6th Pacific Urban Forum tackled each of these issues and opportunities, bringing together a genuinely multi-stakeholder coalition of actors from across and beyond the Blue Pacific Continent. Generously hosted for the first time at the Pacific Islands Forum headquarters in Suva, supported by the Government of Fiji, PUF6 focused the outcomes of the forum directly into the region's architecture, with a focus on the Implementation Plan of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 7th Pacific Urban Forum in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in 2025/26.



Mr. Bernhard Barth

Chair, Pacific Urban Partnership

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)



6th Pacific Urban Forum Delegates
Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership

Introduction

Experiences of urbanization across the Blue Pacific Continent are fragmented and varied, with complex histories of the region’s cities and towns intertwined with colonization, commercial alienation of land, and vested interests. Nonetheless, the urban Pacific continues to grow steadily.

Of the sixteen Pacific Island Countries and Territories that are members of the Pacific Islands Forum (excluding Australia and New Zealand), nine have more than half of their citizens living in urban areas, seven of which are two-thirds urbanized.

In aggregate, the Blue Pacific’s urbanization level is currently just over 30 percent, as shown in Figure 1. However, this regional average is skewed heavily downward by Papua New Guinea’s nine million inhabitants, which account for nearly two-thirds of the Blue Pacific’s total population. On a per country basis, however, urbanization levels and trends differ significantly.

This variation is one of several factors that have contributed to the limited consideration of urbanization or sustainable urban

development in the strategies and frameworks of Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies and associated regional policy platforms to date. The need to address urban issues in the Blue Pacific, including through strong regional positioning on and advocacy for sustainable urban development, is nonetheless increasingly urgent.

Between 2020 and 2050, even conservative growth estimates, such as the official UN figures used in Figure 1, project that half of the region’s total population growth will occur in urban areas. This equates to a more than doubling in size, to a total population of nearly seven million Pacific urban citizens. A recent ‘uptick’ in urbanization in the larger Melanesian archipelagos also suggests that this rate will be substantially exceeded.



By 2050, the urban Pacific will double in size to a total population of more than 7 million.

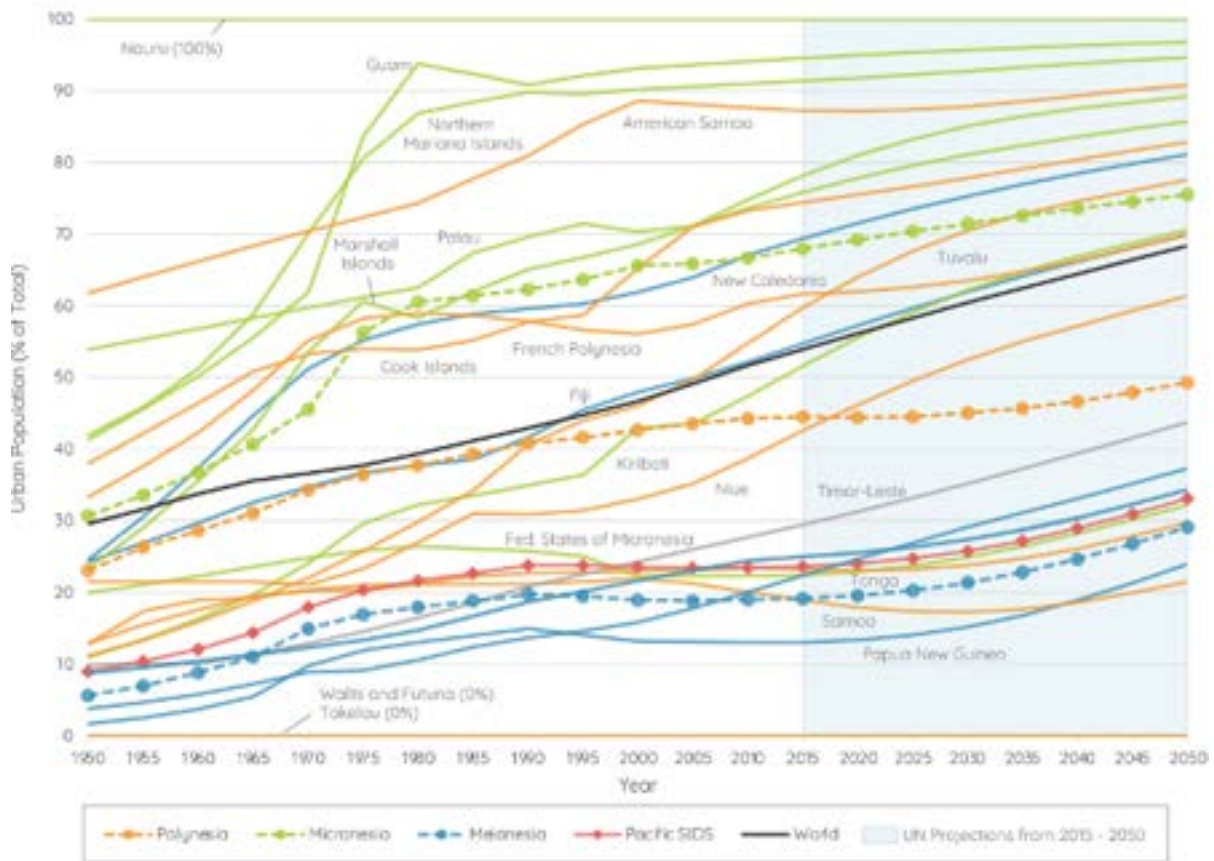


Figure 1: Estimates of Urbanization in the Pacific, derived from UN DESA's 2018 World Urbanization Prospects ([Trundle 2020](#))



Updated official estimates suggest that Port Moresby and its peri-urban surrounds will reach one million people by mid-2025.

Cities and towns account for [more than half of national GDP](#) in most Pacific Island Countries and Territories. They contain major infrastructure, including critical health facilities, which have functions beyond the immediate urban populations. Capital cities dominate salary-based employment and opportunities for study and facilitate international trade and travel.

Pacific urban areas also account for a disproportionate share of young people, reflective of a [deeper structural change](#) in the region. In the longer term, as the climate crisis accelerates, cities and towns will provide critical adaptation pathways for those most severely affected by climate-induced migration, which is [already becoming evident](#) in some low-lying areas.

It is widely acknowledged by both independent experts and national government entities that PNG has not completed an accurate national census since 2000, with the 2011 census [significantly undercounting](#) the largest Pacific Island Country's urban population.

Official re-analysis of building footprints and local headcount data by the PNG National Statistics Office and the National Capital District Commission, however, suggests that [Greater Port Moresby had reached a population of 760,000 by 2019](#) – 62% higher than official figures – and will reach the one million person threshold by mid-2025.

Honiara, capital of Solomon Islands, doubled in size over the last decade alone, [reaching a population size of more than 130,000 ten years earlier than expected](#). The city's population heavily skews towards young Solomon Islanders in search of employment; however, opportunities are scarce.

In Vanuatu, peri-urban growth outside of Port Vila's municipal boundary means that the capital's population is underestimated in official records by almost 43%. When added to the country's second city, Luganville, the total adjustment increases Vanuatu's level of urbanization by 10 percent to nearly one-third of the national populace, [a level of urbanization not expected until 2050](#) in the official UN projections shown above.

The failure to adequately plan for this urban growth across many Pacific SIDS has resulted in large informal settlement areas and associated economies, infrastructure shortfalls, and ineffective support and technical expertise within local government and associated institutions.

This has had significant secondary effects on local environmental conditions (particularly in terms of [waste management and sanitation](#)), [health outcomes](#) (in terms of communicable disease), and [social stability](#) (as reflected in several recent riots and civil disorder events across the region).

Although estimates vary significantly, [calculations](#) in Port Moresby and Honiara using building analysis suggest that more than half of each of these city's buildings are now informal and lacking legal land tenure, presenting a major security risk that could destabilize the region.

At the same time the region's cities and towns offer uniquely Pacific alternatives to Western urban design and 20th Century urban planning. This 'Oceanic urbanization' is better able to support community and kinship, embed cultural practice and traditional knowledge, and incorporate ecosystem services and nature-based solutions, but needs stronger support through national and regional architecture if it is to be effectively sustained and supported by development partners.

Addressing specific urban development challenges must go hand in hand with regional and national urban strategies and planning frameworks. Infrastructure funding alone is not enough to make urban areas function in equitable and sustainable ways; deeper strategic connectivity, forward planning, and capacity build are required.



More than half of the inhabitants of two of the Pacific's biggest cities – Port Moresby and Honiara – are estimated to be living 'informally', impacting security and climate vulnerability.



Wind Valley Informal Settlement, Honiara
Photo Credit: Alexei Trundle

Pacific Island Forum Conference Hall
Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership



The Forum

The first Pacific Urban Forum was held in 2003 and gave rise to the Pacific Urban Agenda. The second and third took place in 2007 and 2011 respectively, with a 'New Pacific Urban Agenda' developed and adopted at PUF4 in 2015. PUF5 was held in Nadi, Fiji in 2019, with a Virtual Pacific Urban Forum hosted online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

December 2023 marks two decades since the first Pacific Urban Forum was held in Nadi, Fiji. Initially titled the [Pacific Region Workshop on Urban Management](#), the inaugural forum was facilitated by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

It was at this event that the first Pacific Urban Agenda was developed, which was subsequently endorsed by Asian and Pacific UN member states at ESCAP's 60th Session in Shanghai in 2004 ([E/ESCAP/RES/60/7](#)). The PUA was formally adopted and included as a high priority initiative (13.5) in PIFS' 10-year regional [Pacific Plan in 2005](#), with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) [being designated by PIFS](#) as the primary body for implementing the PUA.

The second forum was again held in Nadi in April 2007, being facilitated by PIFS, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), ESCAP, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and resulted in [two subsequent workshops](#) later that year in Suva, Fiji and Brisbane, Australia.

In tandem, these two workshops led to development of a revised PUA (PUA2), a [Regional Action Plan](#), and a [commitment by AusAID to support and fund a Pacific Island Planners Association \(PIPA\)](#), supported by the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA).

The PUA2 was re-endorsed as part of the review of the Pacific Plan at the Forum Retreat by Pacific Heads of State and representatives in Vava'u, Tonga in October 2007, as reflected in the [38th PIF Forum Communiqué](#).

The 2011 Pacific Urban Forum, the first to be so formally named, re-affirmed the revised PUA, with the [PUF Outcome Statement](#) underlining the PUA's four thematic areas:

- 1) Urban policy & institutions;
- 2) Urban environment;
- 3) Access to services and shelter; and
- 4) Urban quality of life.

PUF4 was held in March 2015, again in Nadi, convened by UN-Habitat and CLGF Pacific. The event coincided with regional preparatory processes for the Third vicennial United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), as well as the finalization of the UN's [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and its constituent set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PUF4 set out to revitalise the PUA, with delegates resolving to endorse a [New Urban Agenda for the Pacific](#) (NUAP), built upon four revised pillars:

- 1) Social Equity;
- 2) Environment, Resilience & Urbanization;
- 3) Urban Economy; and
- 4) Urban Governance.

Although the NUAP was not formally endorsed by regional bodies, the PIFS Secretary General requested that a workshop be held at the Australian National University (ANU). This was facilitated in Canberra in 2017, leading to the development of strategies to address the rapid urbanization occurring throughout the Pacific.

An interim workshop of local and national government stakeholders held in December 2018 reiterated the request for partnership with PIFS. A fifth pillar, [Urban Infrastructure](#), was also put forward for consideration alongside those contained within the PNUA.



The Pacific Urban Agenda was endorsed by the Pacific Islands Forum in 2005, with urbanization included in the 2005 regional strategy, the 10-year Pacific Plan



A Virtual Pacific Urban Forum was held in 2021 to stocktake progress towards the NUAP. The COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on Pacific urban sustainable development were also analysed.

The fifth Pacific Urban Forum was held in Nadi in July 2019, hosted by the Government of Fiji and [co-organized and sponsored by a consortia of organizations](#), led by UN-Habitat. PUF5 was attended by 185 participants from 25 countries, including two heads of state (Tuvalu and Fiji), six Pacific ministers (representing Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu), and executives from urban line ministries from Vanuatu, Samoa, and Cook Islands.

PUF5 resulted in adoption of a Declaration reaffirming the commitment of Pacific Islands Countries towards the New Urban Agenda for the Pacific. The then incoming Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Hon. Mr. Enele Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, committed to [tabling the outcomes of the PUF at the 50th Forum Leaders Meeting](#), to be held in Funafuti, Tuvalu in August 2019. Subsequent regional implementation efforts resulting from PUF5 were, however, waylaid by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 saw the launch of the Pacific Partnership for the New Urban Agenda (PP-NUA), a coalition of development partners committed to assisting the implementation commitments made at PUF 5.

The PP-NUA facilitated a [Virtual Pacific Urban Forum](#) in 2021, which built on a series of virtual interviews and presentations by ten national urban focal points from across the region. Interview findings published as part of the [VPUF proceedings](#) were categorized based upon progress towards the four initial NUAP pillars, alongside a fifth consideration of the urban impacts of COVID-19 and associated public health responses.

PP-NUA was renamed the Pacific Urban Partnership (PUP) in 2022, continuing to provide input into [various regional events](#) and meeting regularly in a virtual capacity, as well as establishing an online presence through a [website](#) and [social media](#) channels. The global review of the 'urban' Sustainable Development Goal, SDG11, saw renewed interest in localization of the SDGs in the region, with members of the PUP embarking on the development of the Pacific's first Voluntary Local Review in partnership with Suva City Council. A [Memorandum of Understanding](#) was also established between UN ESCAP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, providing a formal framework for engaging on issues of sustainable urban development.



PIF Secretary General Dame Meg Taylor closing the 5th Pacific Urban Forum in 2019
Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership

PUF6

The 6th Pacific Urban Forum was hosted by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, from the 5th to the 7th of September 2023. PUF6 was coordinated by the Pacific Urban Partnership, with the support of several additional urban-focused development partners, alongside representatives of the Republic of Fiji’s Ministry of Local Government and Suva City Council.

For the first time in its 20-year history the sixth Pacific Urban Forum traversed the island of Viti Levu, shifting from Nadi to be hosted by the [Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat](#) at their headquarters in Suva.

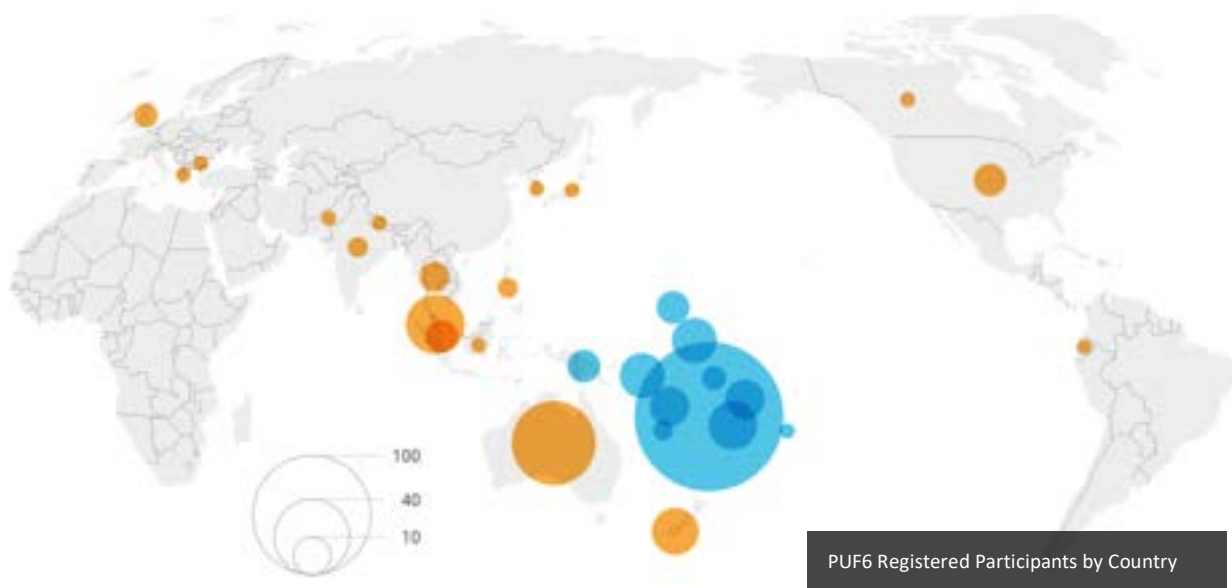
This change supported not only a deep level of engagement with PIFS, who physically hosted the forum, but also a range of multilateral and domestic actors and governmental entities based in the Fijian capital, including the Suva City Council, and the metropolitan, ‘Greater Suva’ town councils of Lami, Nasinu, and Nausori. PUF6 was also scheduled to run in sequence with the [Pacific Housing Forum](#), hosted by Habitat for Humanity, with bridging sessions bringing findings from the PHF into the housing stream of the PUF.

The 327 registered delegates represented 29 countries and 76 unique cities. In addition to Fiji, Pacific Island Countries and Territories represented included Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa.



PUF6 attendees by ‘home’ cities

Attending Pacific dignitaries included Fiji’s Deputy Prime Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad and Hon. Maciu Nalumisa (Minister for Local Government) and Papua New Guinea Minister for Housing, Hon. Dr. Kobby Bomareo. Although unable to attend in person, Prime Minister of Samoa and AOSIS Chair Hon. Afioga Fiamē Naomi Mata’afa opened the Forum with a video message. A full list of delegates is provided at the end of this report.



PUF6 Registered Participants by Country

Hon. Dr. Kobby Bomareo, Papua New Guinea
Minister for Housing and Urbanization

Photo Credit: Candice Lever





PUF6 included a record 36 breakout sessions, developed by more than 30 organizations from diverse sectors, countries, and areas of expertise.

The [PUF6 Programme](#) was structured thematically over the three days of the Forum. [Day 1](#) focused on revitalising the Pacific New Urban Agenda. Following the official opening of the event breakout sessions were grouped into the four pillars of the PNUA, prior to afternoon events that allowed for caucusing of key stakeholder groups. The official PUF civic reception was hosted and sponsored by the Suva City Council, with Deputy Prime Hon. Professor Biman Prasad the official guest of honour for the event.

[Day 2](#) drew attention to the foremost issue of concern for the Pacific region: climate change. As set out in the [Boe Declaration on Regional Security](#) and reflected in numerous regional strategies, policy documents and joint statements, climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific.

The meeting highlighted that development challenges and vulnerabilities associated with climate change are to be seen within the context of other crises, not least COVID-19 recovery which, in a mutually reinforcing manner, impact Pacific Islands severely, risking leaving ever larger numbers of vulnerable community members behind.

Nonetheless, proceedings demonstrated that more attention needs to be drawn exclusively to both the impacts of climate change on Pacific cities and towns, and the role that they play in providing adaptation pathways for climate-induced migration.

Day 2 closed with plenary sessions focused upon upcoming multilevel climate action opportunities for addressing these gaps, particularly COP28's [Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change](#).

[Day 3](#) broadened the previous day's focus on climate action to the suite of regional and global platforms relating to sustainable urban development in the Pacific. These included efforts to localize the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through mechanisms such as Voluntary Local Reviews, but also examined other platforms such as regional programmes for affordable housing delivery, local government sustainability leadership, and other bridging frameworks such as the [Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative](#).

The second half of Day 3 was led by PIFS, with thematic breakout sessions designed to mainstream urban issues into the implementation framework for the [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#). Closing plenary sessions then looked towards the [8th Asia Pacific Urban Forum](#) (held in October 2023) and the [12th session of the World Urban Forum](#) (to be held in November 2024). PUF6 was closed by Hon. Mr. Maciu Katamotu Nalumisa, on behalf of the Government of Fiji.

The following section of this report provides a detailed account of session proceedings, with recordings of each plenary session available on the [Pacific Urban Partnership website](#).

The Sixth Pacific Urban Forum would not have been possible without the support of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Government of Fiji's Ministry of Local Government, Suva City Council, and the member and associate organizations of the Pacific Urban Partnership. Vinaka Vakelevu!



Day 1 – Revitalizing the Pacific New Urban Agenda

The Virtual Pacific Urban Forum in 2021 included detailed input from national focal points from across the region. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, compounded by concurrent global crises, there is a need for ongoing review of progress towards the PNUA.

Forum Opening

Day 1 began with an official ceremony and welcome to Fiji and the Pacific Islands Forum, facilitated by Ms. Makurita Baaro. The Government of Fiji, represented by Mr. Manasa Lesuma, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Housing, welcomed attendees to Suva. Mr. Lesuma's remarks were followed by a video message by Hon. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Her Excellency highlighted that urbanization in the Pacific is overlaid on top of a range of diverse social, cultural, and physical contexts, alongside pressures and development priorities. She emphasized a range of shortcomings in planning for Pacific urbanization to date, including sustained unemployment, rising inequality, and capacity shortfalls in service delivery, alongside housing unaffordability and informality.

Mr. Jaap van Hierden, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Micronesia, then provided opening remarks on behalf of the UN in the Pacific. He emphasized the urgent need to accelerate climate action, as well as the shortcoming of progress towards the SDGs as we reach the mid-point of the UN's 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Joel Nilon, Acting Director of Policy at PIFS, welcomed participants on behalf of the Pacific Island Forum Secretary General Henry Puna, noting the significance of the PUF being held within PIFS, as well as its optimal timing to feed into the development of implementation plans for the Blue Pacific 2050 Strategy.

Mr. Bernhard Barth, Chair of the Pacific Urban Partnership, then provided an overview of the programme along with some context on the Pacific New Urban Agenda and previous PUFs, before a vote of thanks was given for the panel by Ms. Karibaiti Taoaba, Pacific Regional Director of CLGF.



PUF6 coincided with planning for the regional implementation process for PIFS' 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.



Hon. Afioga Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa and AOSIS Chair

Photo Credit: Candice Lever

Plenary 1, Day 1

The first formal plenary of PUF6 constituted a high-level regional dialogue, engaging representatives from across the three Pacific sub-regions, Prefaced by a brief regional analytical update by Dr. Alexei Trundle, University of Melbourne Centre for Cities.

Presentations were then made by Hon. Francis Sade, Premier of Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands), Mr. Azam Khan, Acting CEO of Suva City Council (Fiji), Ms. Tebantaake Keariki, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Kiribati) and Mr. Lopeti Heimuli, CEO of the Ministry of Infrastructure (Tonga), before a Q&A was held with participants.

Pillar Breakout Sessions

Pillar 1: Environment, Resilience and Infrastructure

Three sessions, **Urban Water Infrastructure**, **Community Based WASH Solutions**, and **Urban Systems and Human Health**, highlighted the intersections of urban infrastructure with the environment, resilience, and human health in the Pacific, and the need for solutions to simultaneously address multiple systems at multiple levels.

Session participants and presenters noted the importance of putting health and well-being at the centre of urban development, and of drawing on local context and knowledge, strong engagement with the community, decentralization of technical solutions, and the use of nature-based solutions. In addition, they called for increased funding for WASH services in rural areas.



The interface between Pacific capital cities as migration hubs and the growth in Pacific Labour Mobility Scheme participation was noted as a key shift in urbanization dynamics since VPUF.

Pillar 2: Social Equity and Urbanization

The session **Outcomes of the Pacific Housing Forum** discussed the *Housing Ecosystem Assessment* in Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji, which provided an opportunity for marginalized groups to voice their concerns. It was suggested the Assessment be updated periodically to ensure progress.

Discussions during the **Urban Informality and Customary Land** focused upon the need for land reform policies to address customary land tenure systems. This requires collaboration and consultation between governments and communities, as well as clearer land tenure definitions and stronger land administration systems.

The session **First Nations Housing Solutions** noted that Indigenous and First Nations people are more heavily impacted by inadequate housing, and governments need to accelerate their efforts to improve housing outcomes for them.

Pillar 3: Urban Economy

The session **Increasing Productivity in the Informal Economy** found that informal economies are important to the region, both in scale (e.g., 60% of the economy in PNG) and culturally. However, research is needed to better understand how the region's informal economies function, how they interact with urban growth, and how they can be supported alongside the formal economy.

The session **Rebuilding Post-COVID-19 Economies** focused on opportunities for improving local economic growth. It noted the importance of a locally tailored approach to identifying economic opportunities, improving value chains, and incorporating technological advancements.



Delegates in the PUF6 Plenary
Photo Credit: Candice Lever

Pillar 4: Urban Governance

Three breakout sessions – **Good Urban Governance, National Urban Policies - Pacific Experiences, and Urban Master Planning in the Pacific** – identified principles and characteristics essential for successful urban governance in the Pacific region. These included enhanced coordination, data-driven planning, leadership and stewardship, public-private partnerships, and risk-informed development planning.

National urban policies provide critical mechanisms for coordination, engagement, financing, localization, implementation, and capacity building. Previous national urban policies in the Pacific region were initiated as a commitment to the Pacific (New) Urban Agenda and reported on at Pacific Urban Fora. At PUF6, Vanuatu announced its development of a National Urban Policy.

Caucus Breakout Sessions

Youth Urban Talanoa

The Youth Talanoa brought together young people who are active in the sustainable urban space. The session emphasized the large proportion of youth in the population of Pacific islands and provided an opportunity for open and honest dialogue on the role of youth in advancing sustainable urbanization in the Pacific.

The session highlighted the need to engage youth as key stakeholders at every stage of the urban development process, to listen to youth concerns, and to provide opportunities for youth to be involved in designing solutions where appropriate.

Women's Leadership and Local Government

This session discussed the importance of equal representation of women in local government and the decision-making process. To ensure inclusive and effective decision-making, the session identified the need to address the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles, promote women in such roles, and incorporate gender perspectives in all aspects of governance. Providing platforms and opportunities for knowledge sharing for women at all stages of the decision-making process would enable the creation of more representative governments to serve communities.

Senior National Government Caucus

This roundtable provided an opportunity for national government officials, including from the Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Tuvalu, to share expectations and recommendations for the Pacific Urban Forum. The participants highlighted the importance for PUF to discuss resource mobilisation, capacity building, National Urban Policies, and integration of sustainable urbanization into regional policies.

The caucus recommended that PUF be integrated more strongly into the regional development architecture, include Ministerial meetings, and engage with a wider range of partners in a coordinated manner.

Urban Professional Talanoa

This session explored significant issues for professionals working in the Pacific Region. The session highlighted the need to facilitate exchange of experience and pooling of technical expertise across the region.



Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji H.E. Prof. Biman Prasad opens the PUF Civic Reception at the end of Day 1

Photo Credit: Alexei Trundle

Housing at the mouth of Honiara's Mataniko River
in Ontong Java Settlement, Solomon Islands

Photo Credit: Alexei Trundle



Day 2 – Climate Action for Resilient Pacific Settlements

The second day of the 6th Pacific Urban Forum was entirely focused upon the climate crisis, which intersects with urbanization in the Blue Pacific Continent in a myriad of ways.

Opening Plenary

Day 2 began with a recap of the breakout sessions from Day 1 and an overview of the development of the [Yidinji Declaration](#); the outcome statement from a climate justice workshop held by PUP member [EAROPH](#) in the lead up to PUF6.

The morning’s keynote presentation was delivered by Mr. Lavetanalagi Seru, Regional Coordinator of the [Pacific Islands Climate Action Network](#) (PICAN). Mr. Seru provided an overview of the [Kioa Climate Emergency Declaration](#), highlighting the importance of more accessible climate finance for the region, and the launch of [Kato](#), the Pacific Community Climate Fund.

Mr. Patrick Daniel-Ramanarivo, head of EU Pacific’s Climate Change, Environment and Energy Section, then provided an overview of key EU-funded urban climate initiatives in the region. Dr. Emil Dardak, EAROPH President, provided the session’s final presentation emphasising the importance of multi-level climate action across Asia and the Pacific, as well as opportunities for shared learning across the region.

Breakout Sessions

Local Government Climate Action

The **Local Government Climate Action Case Studies** session explored successful case studies of a risk-informed development (RID) approach to climate action, spearheaded by local governments from Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Tonga. By exchanging these experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, the session highlighted the crucial contributions of local governments to government-led climate change initiatives and urban development agendas.

Innovate4Cities Urban Climate Marketplace

explored how Pacific cities can work with partners in research, industry, and other sectors in fostering local solutions to the unique climate-related challenges faced by the region.

Participants identified the need to address the political will to govern, and how to shift priorities, and discussed solutions around sustainability financing, benefit sharing, and governance powers.



Finance for urban climate resilience in the Pacific continues to lag behind efforts in rural areas, with participants emphasizing the need for more direct input and access by communities in Pacific cities and towns.



H.E. Mr. Al’ioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Samoan High Commissioner to Fiji, and colleagues listen to the plenary presentations of Day 2 of PUF
Photo Credit: Candice Lever



PUF delegates network over morning tea in the PIFS Fale
Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership



Loss and Damage continues to emerge as a critical area to operationalize in Pacific cities as the climate crisis accelerates.

Regional Climate Action Frameworks

Loss & Damage Proposal for a Pacific Pilot outlined how a Loss & Damages framework could be most appropriately implemented to address the needs of urban settlements in the Pacific region. It considered issues of irreversible damage, repairing damage done, building resilience, and compensating for non-economic damage and loss. The session highlighted the need for localized and customized solutions, collaboration with local communities, mainstreaming Loss & Damage into urban and strategic planning.

The session **Climate Migration and Human Security** presented the *Pacific Climate Mobility Framework* as an example of regional collective action to address the significant issue of climate-induced migration and explored how to foster collaboration among stakeholders for effective urban responses on this issue.

Participants highlighted the need to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing, support regional collective action, acknowledge, and appreciate leadership, and incorporate disaster risk and vulnerability into land-use and urban planning.

Building Urban Climate Resilience

The **Community Climate Resilience and Housing** session highlighted housing as the nexus of climate solutions, and the importance of adequate and affordable

housing for climate resilience. Participants shared experiences from across the region, as well as best practices from the *Pacific Shelter Guide Project*. It was noted that resilient housing needs governments, communities, and civil society to work better together, and strong coordination and collaboration mechanisms are crucial.

The session Climate Risk and Resilience: Planning for Sustainable Urban Design

explored approaches for assessing urban climate risks and incorporating measures into city master-planning. The session identified that risk-informed urban design should address the elements of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. The need to consider the environmental impacts of rapid urban development in planning were particularly highlighted.

The session Nature-Based Climate Urban Climate Resilience

highlighted the potential of nature-based solutions to deliver multiple climate and sustainable development benefits in localized Pacific settings. It emphasized that successful solutions need to centre on indigenous knowledge and understanding of wellbeing, and require adequate funds; support from experts, local government, and civil society; commitment from local communities and local facilitators.

Mobilising Community Climate Action

The session **Youth Voices: Climate Impacted Communities** focussed on the strength of young people in organising and supporting local climate adaptation programs in urban settings, and discussed how they can be supported through mechanisms such as financial support and training.

The **Climate Justice Charter** session built on the [Yidinji Declaration on in favour of an Indigenous Climate Justice Charter](#), drafted in Cairns, Australia, in April 2023. Session participants highlighted that Indigenous knowledge provides the needed holistic approach to address the interconnections between the land and sea. Participants endorsed the Charter being promoted more broadly in the region, alongside a proposal for it to be taken forward to APUF8.

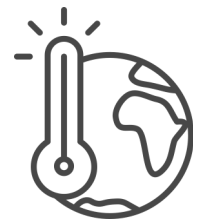
Closing Plenary: Towards and Beyond COP28

Day 2's closing plenary consisted of a panel of presentations from development partners, civil society, and national and regional representatives. The session included calls for the Pacific urban community to engage much more strongly on climate issues at the national level, including through National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions.

Mr. Karlos Moresi, Resilience Development Finance Programme Adviser at PIFS, provided an overview of the process for establishing regional priorities up to COP28, emphasising the importance of the [Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now](#) in linking climate and disaster risks in the Blue Pacific.

PICAN's Regional Coordinator Mr. Lavetanalagi Seru re-joined the stage to provide an overview of non-state actor engagement by Pacific civil society at COP28. Mr. Steve Gawler, Regional Director of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability for Oceania, highlighted opportunities for local governments and municipal authorities to engage in UNFCCC proceedings. It was noted that PUF6 outcomes would be integrated as a formal [Local Stocktake](#), feeding into the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

Hon. Dr. Kobby Bomareo, Minister of Housing for Papua New Guinea closed the session with an invitation for all Pacific Island country representatives to engage in the Urbanization Ministerial Meeting at COP28, before announcing the intention of PNG to host PUF7 in Port Moresby.



The 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP28 resulted in a 10-point plan to build climate action into different levels of government, and make sure enough adaptation finance is reaching cities.

Breakout Sessions in the Plenary Hall
Photo Credit: Candice Lever



Delegate Q&A in a Breakout Session in the Fale
Photo Credit: Candice Lever



Day 3 – From Urban Action to Global & Regional Agendas

Urban issues often fall between the roles and responsibilities of regional bodies in the Pacific, with no current responsible agency within the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific. The development of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent presents an opportunity to reinvigorate Pacific urban processes, building on the precedents set out in the Pacific Plan two decades earlier.

Opening Plenary

Embedding the Urban Blue Pacific in Regional & Global Agendas

Ms. Kate Brown, Executive Director of the Global Island Partnership (GLIPSA), moderated the morning session, providing opening remarks reflecting on the previous day's progress and the need to link the critical sectoral needs of the urban Pacific to the policy frameworks that operate across and beyond the region.

A keynote presentation by Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head of the Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific for UN ESCAP, then highlighted the intersectional role of the SDGs across the region with reference to a number of Pacific policy frameworks, such as the [SAMOA Pathway](#) and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Progress on many of the SDGs was noted to be stalling or regressing in the region.

A second keynote presentation was provided by Ms. Claire Frost, Head of Programmes for the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, highlighting the role for island nation linkages beyond the Pacific through mechanisms such as the [Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative](#).

These presentations were then followed by a multistakeholder dialogue. Mr. Leith Veremaito, Acting Director General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Vanuatu, noted his government's recent establishment of a [Department of Urban Affairs and Planning](#), as well as the regional need for capacity building on urban planning and associated technical capabilities. H.E. Mr. Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia then contributed wisdom from his more than three decades of experience in diplomatic posts associated with the United Nations, before Mr. Azam Khan, Suva City Council CEO, provided some personal reflections on his city's efforts to localize the UN SDGs through a Voluntary Local Review.



Suva City Council is finalizing a Voluntary Local Review into the UN SDGs, a first for a Pacific Island local government.



Mr. Azam Khan, Suva City Council Acting CEO, Addresses the Plenary
Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership



Delegates reconvene for the Closing Plenary session on Day 3
Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership



Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific is slow, with critical urban-related areas, including the 'urban goal', SDG11, noted to have regressed in 2022.

Breakout Sessions

Advancing Local Pacific Leadership in Global Development Agendas

The **Local SDG Awareness, Action and Leadership in the Pacific** and the **Mayoral Roundtable: Local Government Sustainability Leadership** sessions discussed the benefits, opportunities, and challenges of local action to help implementation of global and regional sustainable development agendas, such as the localization of the SDGs.

It was emphasized that local and subnational governments need support to undertake these initiatives through capacity building, enhanced collaboration with regional and multilateral experts, and dedicated financial resources.

Participants in the **UN Habitat Professionals Forum** session discussed the *HPF Post-COVID Roadmap*, which sets out how a just and regenerative recovery can support urban development and implementation of the SDGs in the Pacific. Pathways for Pacific professionals were put forward as a critical focus for its next implementation phase.

The session **Affordable Housing Delivery Models for the Pacific** examined public-private-community partnership models for delivering climate resilient affordable housing, a critical emerging issue across the region as well as globally. The session urged caution in adopting large scale PPP financial transactions in the Pacific context due to the frequency and scale of climate events.

To assist in this area, broader climate finance discussions are needed, as well as short-term funding for immediate support for communities in natural disasters, and long-term funding for sustainable urban development.

Implementing Urbanization within the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Day 3's final block of breakout sessions was led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, beginning with Mr. Joel Nilon, PIFS Acting Director of Policy familiarising delegates with the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*, the region's long term strategic plan and approach to Pacific regionalism.

Ms. Manaini Rokovunisei, PIFS Team Leader for the 2050 Strategy, then introduced the six themes of the draft *Implementation Plan*: Peace and Security; People-Centered Development; Oceans and Environment; Climate Change and Disasters; Resources and Economic Development; and Technology and Connectivity.

Six breakout sessions were convened to brainstorm mainstreaming priorities for considering urban issues within the 2050 Strategy implementation plan. These were compiled by PIFS and incorporated by PUP into an *Urban Implementation Brief for the 2050 Strategy*.

PUF6 Closing Plenary

The final session of the Forum presented the PUF6 Outcome Statement, titled the [Suva Statement for a Sustainable Urban Pacific](#). Appended within the following section of this report, the Suva Statement was edited and agreed through consensus of the PUF attendees in plenary, as facilitated by the Drafting Committee Chair Ms. Claire Frost, CLGF, and Mr. Omar Siddique, UN ESCAP.

The Suva Statement emphasized the importance of integrating sustainable urbanization into regional Pacific policy architecture, including through integration into regional strategic implementation plans, a dedicated workstream in one of the CROP agencies, and by elevating consideration of the urban Pacific into an official Ministerial dialogue.

A further critical consideration that was identified was the need to expand the membership of the Pacific Urban Partnership to better reflect Pacific-based urban stakeholders and entities, and to develop an ambitious workplan to tackle the growing challenges of urbanization in the region.

Mr. Omar Siddique and Mr. Bernhard Barth (UN-Habitat) provided a brief overview of upcoming critical regional and global events for progressing the action items within the Suva Statement; specifically, the 8th Session of the Asia Pacific Urban Forum (October 2023, Suwon, Korea), the 2023 UN Climate Conference (COP28, December 2023, Dubai, UAE), and the 12th Session of the World Urban Forum (November 2024, Cairo, Egypt).

Hon. Mr. Maciu Katamotu Nalumisa, Fiji Minister for Housing and Local Government, then provided the closing address for PUF6, thanking participants, PIFS as forum host, Suva City Council, and the members of the Pacific Urban Partnership.

The Minister noted that he would be carrying the outcome statement and learnings from PUF6 forward to the 8th Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Suwon, Republic of Korea the following month, including through the high-level ministerial session to be held at the event. Following a final vote of thanks for the Minister, the event was closed, and proceedings concluded.



Outcomes from the 6th Pacific Urban Forum were taken forward by Pacific delegates at the 8th Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Suwon, Korea and further built upon at COP28 and the 12th World Urban Forum in 2024.



Hon. Mr. Maciu Katamotu Nalumisa, Fiji Minister for Housing and Local Government, closes the 6th Pacific Urban Forum
Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership

A Youth Delegate in the PIFS Fale
Photo Credit: Candice Lever



Acknowledgements


The Pacific Urban Forum is a truly multi-stakeholder event, with no single source of sponsorship and a wide array of supporting entities which have collective steerage and ownership over its proceedings and outputs. PUF6 was dependent upon the cooperation and contributions of a range of organizations, governments, and committed individuals, only some of whom are named below.

Vinaka vakalevu to all who took part, and especially those who contributed behind the scenes at PIFS, from elsewhere in Suva, and remotely from other parts of Oceania and beyond.

Organising Committee

Substantive contributions in time, logistics, and other support were made to PUF6 by both the members of the Pacific Urban Partnership Steering Committee, and representatives of several additional organizations who joined the organising committees of PUF6 itself. From within the PUP SC, these representatives included Mr. Bernhard Barth (UN-Habitat), Ms. Karibaiti Taoaba, Mr. Suneil Adhikari and Mr. Terry Parker (CLGF), Dr. Jane Stanley, Ms. Kerry McGovern and Ms. Mia Davidson (EAROPH), Mr. Steve Gawler (ICLEI Oceania), Mr. Omar Siddique (UN ESCAP), Ms. Bernadette Pinnell (Home in Place), Dr. Alexei Trundle (University of Melbourne), Local2030 Islands Network (Ms. Kate Brown), and Dr. Tahl Kestin and Ms. Jess Walters (Monash University).

Additional representatives from these organizations that joined the PUF6 organising committee were Ms. Aksha Fernandez (UN-Habitat), Ms Letila Naqasima, Ms. Claire Frost and Ms. Akuila Masi (CLGF), Ms. Nobuko Kajiura and Ms. Rebecca Purba (UN ESCAP), Ms. Barbara Saunders and Ms. Shona Nakkan (Home in Place), Mr. Andrew Irvin (University of Melbourne), Ms. Jyoti Mala Prasad (ICLEI Oceania / GCOM), and Ms. Celeste Connors and Dr. Samantha Happ (Local2030 Islands Network). Representatives of organisations who joined the PUF6 organising committees in addition to those within PUP were Ms. Lisa Buggy and Ms. Eva Tu'uholoaki (UNDP), Mr. Henry Cocker, Ms. Portia Dugu, Ms. Manaini Rokovunisei, Ms. Emele Bovororo and Mr. Joel Nilon (PIFS), and Ms Sholeen Nair, Mr. Albert Wong, and Mr. Azam Khan (SCC).



Mr. Manasa Lesuma, PS of the Fiji Ministry of Housing, is greeted by Suva City Council's Mr. Albert Wong.

Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership

Sponsorship & Support

In addition to the in-kind contributions of time and expertise committed by members of the PUF6 organising committees and organizations set out above, substantive contributions were provided by each organization to both the running of the Forum, and in terms of sponsorship of delegates from Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

First and foremost, the PUP wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the PIFS headquarters facilities, including technical support, by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat. Further generous contributions were made by the host municipality, Suva City Council, both in terms of extensive staff time to facilitate registrations, coordinating the venue set up, and in sponsoring both the PUF6 Reception and gifts for attendees, alongside colleagues from Lami, Nausori and Nasinu. The Government of the Republic of Fiji's Ministry of Local Government contributed transport services to and from the venue, along with material provision of equipment for the Forum itself.

UN-Habitat (through the UN Development Account and the World Urban Forum Secretariat), UN ESCAP, CLGF, The Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) and ICLEI Oceania, EAROPH, Home in Place, Islands 2030 Network, Monash University, and the University of Melbourne sponsored a total of 65 delegates, along with various materials for the Forum. The European Union and the World Bank Group also sponsored the attendance of several PICT government officials and civil society representatives. The Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded a full-time Australian Volunteer to support the secretariat throughout the planning process through the Australian Volunteers Program (AVP). Event management support was provided by [The Festivals Company Fiji](#), led by Director Ms. Sharleen Ali, who personally took on critical roles in relation to the planning and running of the event, in partnership with Mr. Suneil Adhikari, the Australian Volunteer hosted by CLGF Pacific.

Lastly, the organising committee wishes to thank the participants of the 6th Pacific Urban Forum, whether in-person or online, as well as all of those who contributed to presentations, through talanoa and Q&A, and in informal conversations between sessions. Your ongoing commitment provides the foundation of our efforts to support a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient urban Pacific.



Ms. Manaini Rokovunisei, PIFS Policy Adviser, presents on the PIFS consultation process for development of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent Implementation Plan
Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Partnership



THE SUVA STATEMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE URBAN PACIFIC

Accelerating Action at All Levels for Inclusive, Safe and Climate Resilient Cities, Towns and Communities in Pacific Island Countries

The participants, hosts and organizers of the Sixth Session of the Pacific Urban Forum,

1. *Inspired* by the transformative role of national, subnational and local governments in designing, planning and managing sustainable urban development in the Pacific for the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement, and implementation of the [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#),
2. *Taking note* of the [outcomes of the fifth Pacific Urban Forum](#) hosted in 2019 in Nadi, Fiji, which launched the [Pacific Urban Partnership](#)¹ and provided concrete commitments for implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda agreed upon at the fourth Pacific Urban Forum of 2015,
3. *Recognizing* the significant adverse health, social and economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic on Pacific cities and towns, especially on vulnerable urban communities often living in informal settlements, and the need to build resilience for a sustainable recovery at all levels of government and society against future pandemics and other interlinked crises, chief among them the climate emergency, as reflected upon in the [Virtual Pacific Urban Forum held in 2021](#),
4. *Recalling* the outcomes and global commitments of the second United Nations Habitat Assembly as a critical milestone for realizing sustainable urban development in a coordinated manner, with the participation of all relevant actors,
5. *Welcoming* the recent adoption of the Commonwealth Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization by Commonwealth Heads of Government, including by twenty-five small island developing states,
6. *Recalling* resolution 79/9 of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, co-sponsored by the Government of Fiji, in which the Commission committed to promoting sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals to enhance the quality of life, develop healthy environments and better manage environmental risks and resources,

¹ The members of the Pacific Urban Partnership are: UN-Habitat; ESCAP; CLGF; ICLEI; EAROPH, Home in Place; The University of Melbourne's Centre for Cities; and Monash University's Sustainable Development Institute

7. *Expressing concern* at the lack of integration of sustainable urbanization in key regional development frameworks, plans, strategies, including the present Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific architecture and coordination arrangements, including the limited participation and enabling environment for Pacific local and subnational stakeholders to meaningfully engage in regional and global urban development and climate change fora,
8. *Reaffirming* the vital role of the Pacific Island Forum in fostering regional cooperation for sustainable and climate resilient urban development, as well as in directly assisting their members in their efforts to localize the Kainaki II Declaration, Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent through active partnerships, with local governments, civil society and all stakeholders, Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific and the agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations system,
9. *Encourages* all countries and stakeholders to:
 - a. Deepen regional cooperation on sustainable urban development and the Pacific New Urban Agenda through, among other modalities, sharing of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned in the Pacific region, including but not limited to supporting voluntary subnational and local reviews and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, in close alignment and guided by national review and reporting mandates and processes.
 - b. Commit to fostering sustainable risk informed urban development practices that prioritize resilience, justice, equity, and the protection of vulnerable communities, especially those residing in informal settlements, against the devastating impacts of climate change, disasters health emergencies and non-communicable diseases in Pacific Island nations.
 - c. Draw on, respect, and revive cultural and traditional knowledge systems within sustainable urban development approaches upholding indigenous rights, reflective of their critical role in generating urban resilience in the region.
 - d. Recognize and rectify gender inequalities and barriers in urban areas in the region, by supporting representation of women in subnational and local government as well in communities as part of climate and disaster responses, to pave the way for more inclusive, effective, and sustainable recovery efforts that benefit entire societies in the Pacific Islands.
 - e. Acknowledge the role of cities and towns across the Pacific in maintaining national stability in support of the Boe Declaration, and in providing pathways for mobility and livelihood transformation as the climate crisis accelerates.
 - f. Strengthen the pivotal role of cities, towns, local communities and their regions to pave the way for a brighter future, empowering youth to drive economic opportunities, foster innovation, and contribute to the resilience and prosperity of the entire Pacific region.
10. *Requests* the member states of the Pacific Island Forum and members of the United Nations system in the Pacific to:
 - a. Recognize and enhance the role of the Pacific Urban Forum as the region's apex multi-stakeholder urban forum and dialogue platform for subnational and local government

matters in the Pacific region, including the convening of a high-level ministerial segment in its seventh session;

- b. Institutionalize and embed sustainable urban development in the regional development architecture of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, including by establishing dedicated institutional strategies for sustainable urbanization supported by dedicated focal points in the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific with adequate resources and mandates;
- c. Strengthen the urbanization dimensions of the proposed Implementation Plan of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent across all of its thematic priorities, leveraging a 'whole of government and society' approach with adequate resources for implementation to leave no one or place behind in the Pacific;
- d. Focus the extensive regional technical and policy development capabilities of Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific on the unique issues facing the citizens of Pacific Island cities and towns, including: climate action and a just transition; informal and customary urban land tenure; complex intercultural capacities; governance; traditional knowledge systems; hybrid ecosystem services; and food and water security;
- e. Assist cities, towns and urban communities upon request, with the facilitation and provision of policy studies and capacity-building activities, to inform their efforts to promote sustainable and climate resilient urban development;
- f. Encourage development partners and donors to dedicate adequate resources and technical assistance to sustainable and climate resilient urban development, recognising the need for strengthening and building capacity within local and municipal governments across the region;
- g. Participate in and invite cities, towns and all stakeholders, as appropriate, to participate actively in the eighth session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum to be held in October 2023 in Suwon, Republic of Korea; the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October 2024 in Apia, Samoa; the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum to be held in November 2024 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt; the United Nations Framework on Climate Change processes, including the Conference of the Parties, as well as the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change and Urbanization; and the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.
- h. Report on the implementation of the present statement with partners and Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific to the seventh session of the Pacific Urban Forum welcoming the invitation by Papua New Guinea to host the forum in Port Moresby in 2025/6.

7 September 2023
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Suva, Fiji



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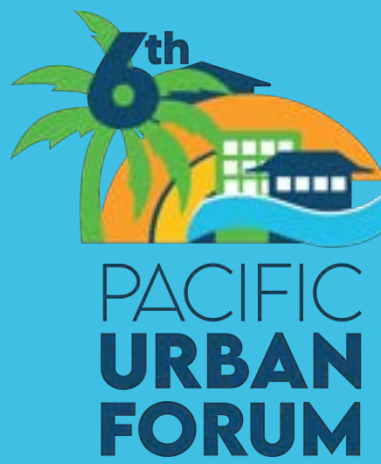
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Willie Gordon
Wy Mun Kong
Yuyun Qomariyah
Zakiya Gora-Ivanoff
Zoraya El Raiss

Participants applaud the close of proceedings in the PIFS Plenary Hall

Photo Credit: Candice Lever





DAY 1: REVITALISING THE PACIFIC NEW URBAN AGENDA (Tues 5th Sept)

8:00 am

Arrival and Registration

9:00 am

Opening Ceremony

Welcome Message – Suva City Council, Host City
Program Overview from the Pacific Urban Partnership
Scene Setting from the United Nations Resident Coordinator

10:00 am

Keynote Addresses

Pacific Islands Forum and the Government of the Republic of Fiji

10:30 am

Group Photo and Morning Tea

11:00 am

Plenary 1, Day 1

Regional Update – Pacific Cities & Towns in the Polycrisis
High-Level Regional Dialogue on Sustainable Urban Development in the Pacific
 Q&A

12:00 pm

Lunch

Breakout Sessions

1:00 pm

PNUA Pillar 1a:
Urban Water Infrastructure
 (Plenary Hall)

PNUA Pillar 1b:
Urban Systems & Human Health
 (Committee Room B)

PNUA Pillar 2a:
Outcomes of the Pacific Housing Forum
 (Fale Talanoa Space)

PNUA Pillar 3a:
Increasing Productivity in the Informal Economy
 (Executive Room)

PNUA Pillar 4a:
Good Urban Governance
 (Committee Room A)

2:00 pm

PNUA Pillar 1c:
Community-based WASH Solutions
 (Plenary Hall)

PNUA Pillar 4b:
Urban Master Planning in the Pacific
 (Committee Room B)

PNUA Pillar 2b:
Urban Informality & Customary Land
 (Fale Talanoa Space)

PNUA Pillar 3b:
Rebuilding Post-COVID Economies
 (Executive Room)

PNUA Pillar 4c:
National Urban Policies – Pacific Experiences
 (Committee Room A)

3:00 pm

Afternoon Tea

Breakout Sessions

3:30 pm

Women's Leadership and Local Government
 (Plenary Hall)

Urban Youth Talanoa
 (Fale Talanoa Space)

Senior National Government Caucus
 (Executive Room)

Urban Professionals Talanoa
 (Committee Room A)

First Nations Housing Solutions
 (Committee Room B)

4:30 pm

Closing Plenary, Day 1

Breakout Session Rapporteurs & Outcomes Drafting Committee Chair

5:30 pm

PUF6 Reception (PIFS Fale)
 Hosted by the Suva City Council



DAY 2: CLIMATE ACTION FOR RESILIENT PACIFIC SETTLEMENTS (Wed 6th Sept)

8:30 am Arrival and Introductory Video: To Hell with Drowning

9:00 am **Opening Plenary, Day 2: Climate Action for Pacific Cities & Towns**
 Day 1 Recap & Introduction to Day 2 / Yidinji Declaration Video
 The Kioa Climate Emergency Declaration – Lavetanalagi Seru, PICAN Regional Coordinator
 Address by Patrick Daniel-Ramanarivo – EU Pacific HoS Climate Change, Ocean & Environment
 Address by Dr Emil Dardak, EAROPH International President
 Q&A

10:30 am Morning Tea

Breakout Sessions

11:00 am	Climate 1a Local Government Climate Action Case Studies (Plenary Hall)	Climate 1b Community Climate Resilience & Housing (Committee Room B)	Climate 1c Innovate4Cities Urban Climate Marketplace (Executive Room)	Climate 1d Loss & Damage (Committee Room A)
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12:00 pm Lunch

Extended Breakout Sessions

1:00 pm	Climate 2a Climate Migration and Human Security (Plenary Hall)	Climate 2b Youth Voices: Climate Impacted Communities (Fale Talanoa Space)	Climate 2c Nature-based Urban Climate Resilience (Committee Room B)	Climate 2d Climate Risk & Resilience Planning for Sustainable Urban Design (Executive Room)	Climate 2e Climate Justice Charter (Committee Room A)
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3:00 pm Afternoon Tea

3:30 pm **Plenary 2, Day 2: Making Multilevel Climate Action work for the Pacific**
 Contributions and Commitments towards – and beyond – CoP28

4:30 pm **Closing Plenary, Day 2**
 Breakout Session Rapporteurs – Session Summaries & Reflections
 Closing Remarks & Fijian Performance Group VOU on Climate Action (video)

DAY 3: FROM URBAN ACTION TO GLOBAL & REGIONAL AGENDAS (Thurs 7th Sept)

8:30 am

Arrival

9:00 am

Opening Plenary, Day 3: Linking the Urban Pacific to Regional & Global Agendas

Introductory Remarks – Kate Brown, Executive Director, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
Urbanization and Regional Agendas in the Pacific – Andie Fong Toy, UN ESCAP Regional Director
Sustainable Urban Development across the Commonwealth – Claire Frost, CLGF Head of Programmes

9:30 am

Multistakeholder Dialogue: Urban Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

Cross-sectoral reflections on SDG localisation and partnerships from across the Pacific
Q&A

10:30 am

Morning Tea

Breakout Sessions

11:00 am

<p>Multilevel 1a Local SDG Awareness, Action & Leadership in the Pacific (Plenary Hall)</p>	<p>Multilevel 1b Mayoral Roundtable Local Government Sustainability Leadership (Fale Talanoa Space)</p>	<p>Multilevel 1c PUF6 Outcome Document Drafting (Executive Room)</p>	<p>Multilevel 1d UN-Habitat Professionals Forum (Committee Room A)</p>	<p>Multilevel 1e Affordable Housing Delivery Part 2 - Risk Informed, Resilient Settlements (Committee Room B)</p>
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1:00 pm

Lunch

2:00 pm

Plenary 2, Day 3: Addressing Urbanisation through the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Introductory Remarks – Joel Nilon, PIFS Director of Policy (actg.)
2050 Strategy Implementation Overview and Thematic Areas: Manaini Rokovunisei, PIFS Team Leader 2050

Thematic Breakout Sessions

2:30 pm

<p>Multilevel 2a Peace & Security (Plenary Hall)</p>	<p>Multilevel 2b People Centred Development (Plenary Hall)</p>	<p>Multilevel 2c Oceans and Environment (Fale)</p>	<p>Multilevel 2d Climate Change & Disasters (Executive Room)</p>	<p>Multilevel 2e Resources and Econ. Development (Comm Room A)</p>	<p>Multilevel 2f Technology & Connectivity (Comm Room B)</p>
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3:30 pm

Afternoon Tea

4:00 pm

PUF6 Closing Plenary

Sustainable Urban Development & the Pacific New Urban Agenda through the Polycrisis (Pacific Urban Partnership)
From PUF6 to APUF8, WUF12 and Beyond (UN-Habitat & UN ESCAP)
Closing Remarks – Fiji Minister for Housing and Local Government Hon. Maciu Katamotu Nalumisa



PACIFIC URBAN FORUM

5-7 September 2023

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – DETAILED PROGRAM

REVITALISING THE PACIFIC NEW URBAN AGENDA (Tues 5th Sept)

Day 1 Breakout Sessions – 1:00pm to 2:00pm

<p>Urban Water Infrastructure PNUA Pillar 1a – Plenary Hall Organisers: UNDP, RISE & WAF</p>	<p>Part 1 of 2 sessions on water sanitation infrastructure development, emphasising collaboration between various government levels and communities. The UNDP Gov4Res focal point at the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management will elaborate on best practice for risk-informed development of water projects. This includes enhanced community engagement, risk-informed planning, and strategic budgeting, all of which are crucial for positively impacting urbanisation.</p>
<p>Urban Systems & Human Health PNUA Pillar 1b – Committee Room B Organisers: MSDI, SPC, USyd & ECU</p>	<p>This session will explore contemporary urban health issues using a nested approach to the health of people, urban settlements, islands, oceans, and the planet. This nested approach brings together epidemiological and ecological understandings to inform sustainable solutions.</p>
<p>Pacific Housing Forum Outcomes PNUA Pillar 2a – Fale Talanoa Space Organisers: Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>Providing an overview of the Pacific Housing Forum (held on the 4th of September in Suva), this session will explore the linkages between the two events, innovations in the housing sector and humanitarian shelter relief, and look forward to the Asia Pacific Housing Forum to be held adjacent to the Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Suwon, Republic of Korea, in October this year.</p>
<p>Increasing Productivity in the Informal Economy PNUA Pillar 3a – Executive Room Organisers: EAROPH</p>	<p>This session will introduce new ideas illustrating how to maximise the economic benefits of informal enterprises through policy and practice. Presentations will describe how the PNG national audit is informing policy development, and how expanding the role of markets can result in creation of multi-purpose local economic hubs.</p>
<p>Good Urban Governance PNUA Pillar 4a – Committee Room A Organisers: CLGF & PUMA</p>	<p>This session is to enhance understanding of the concept of good urban governance and its relevance in the Pacific context. Panellists will share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in urban governance from across the Pacific region and identify challenges and opportunities for improving urban governance and its impact on sustainable urban development.</p>

Day 1 Breakout Sessions – 2:00pm to 3:00pm

<p>PNUA Pillar 1c – Plenary Hall Community-based WASH Solutions Organisers: Rotary Pacific Water & RISE</p>	<p>Part 2 of these water infrastructure sessions focuses on water sanitation infrastructure development, emphasising collaboration between various government levels and communities. Rotary Pacific Water brings experience from a rural perspective in both technical and soft WASH work utilising urban resources; while RISE will elaborate on the RISE-Approach, providing a rare opportunity to share research, on-the-ground findings, and how a focus on women and children in informal urban settlements often leads to stronger outcome</p>
<p>National Urban Policies – Pacific Experiences PNUA Pillar 4c – Committee Room A Organisers: UN-Habitat</p>	<p>Numerous countries in the Pacific Region have developed and are implementing National Urban Policies and other urban or subnational umbrella policies (such as island strategies or housing policies). Have such policies stimulated urban and local action? Have they helped coordination between ministries? Have they facilitated multi stakeholder action? Building on case studies from Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, participants will be able to share and jointly learn how such policies can be effective for local development.</p>
<p>Rethinking Urban Resilience in Informal & Customary Land PNUA Pillar 2b – Fale Talanoa Space Organisers: MC4C & World Bank</p>	<p>This session will draw on country-specific reflections on the different forms, functions, and interactions of customary, formal, and informal land systems in Pacific Island cities and towns, exploring the potential for such systems to be integrated in new ways into urban structures that can enhance the resilience, equitability, and sustainability of the region. Examples will be drawn from Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Kiribati.</p>
<p>Rebuilding Post-COVID Economies PNUA Pillar 3b – Executive Room Organisers: ICLEI & CLGF</p>	<p>This session will introduce a new model for local economic planning that increases self-reliance and sustainable use of resources. An action learning program has been delivered in five Pacific countries, and this will be outlined together with a description of how one of these plans is being implemented in South Tarawa, Kiribati.</p>
<p>Urban Master Planning in the Pacific PNUA Pillar 4b – Committee Room B Organisers: Fiji Ministry of Local Govt</p>	<p>As an Island Nation situated in the hub of the Pacific, Fiji is experiencing unique challenges and opportunities. The government is looking at a long-term Strategic Master Plan for urban development. It will provide a roadmap to ensure that growth is sustainable, inclusive, and resilient, safeguarding Fiji's unique cultural and environmental assets, while promoting economic advancement and a higher quality of life for our citizens. The panel will be sharing how this experience is adapted for Fiji to guide the country into her next phase of urban development.</p>

Day 1 Breakout Sessions – 3:30pm to 4:30pm

<p>Women & Local Government Plenary Hall Organisers: CLGF</p>	<p>This session will provide a platform for participants to share practical experiences and lessons learnt regarding women's political engagement at the local government level. It will address essential issues confronting women's political engagement and offer practical recommendations to national and local government representatives.</p>
<p>Urban Youth Talanoa Fale Talanoa Space Organisers: MSDI</p>	<p>This session will explore Youth engagement in the urban development space and the importance of youth for the implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda. The session includes a panel of young professionals who will share their experiences, understandings, and current and future solutions followed by a Talanoa session exploring potential pathways for future youth engagement across this space.</p>
<p>Senior National Government Representatives Caucus Executive Room Organisers: UN-Habitat & UN ESCAP</p>	<p>This session is intended to provide a platform for senior national government officials to discuss the implementation of the Pacific New Urban Agenda at the national level through National Urban Policies and through other enabling policies and programmes including SDG localization and VLRs. Further the session will discuss the engagement in regional processes (including the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy) and global events (APUF and WUF as well as COPs) and how these events can be made as useful and as accessible for Pacific governments. The session will conclude by discussing the commitments from PUF.</p>
<p>Urban Professionals Talanoa Committee Room A Organisers: EAROPH</p>	<p>This session will address two key questions: 1) How can dependence on foreign professionals be decreased by building the capacity of Pacific Islander professionals? and 2) In the meantime, how can foreign professionals be better oriented to meeting cross-cultural requirements and recognizing the local context for their services?</p>
<p>First Nations Housing Solutions Committee Room B Organisers: HiP</p>	<p>This event will discuss distinct First Nations and Indigenous housing needs; highlighting unique socio-economic characteristics, social practices, and cultural values. It is a rare opportunity for sharing of skills and expertise with in-person representatives from across the wide Pacific to showcase projects and learnings.</p>

CLIMATE ACTION FOR RESILIENT PACIFIC SETTLEMENTS (Wed 6th Sept)

Day 2 Breakout Sessions – 11:00am to 12:00pm

<p>Local Government Climate Action Case Studies Climate 1a – Plenary Hall Organisers: CLGF & UNDP</p>	<p>This session will give opportunities for the delegates to share success stories on local government approach to climate action, spearheaded by local governments across the Pacific region. By exchanging these experiences, best practices, and the lessons learnt, the session aspires to prompt decision makers to acknowledge the contributions of local governments to government-led climate change initiatives and urban development agendas. It aims to inspire other local authorities to take effective strides towards a more sustainable and resilient urban future.</p>
<p>Community Climate Resilience & Housing Climate 1b – Committee Room B Organisers: RMIT, Oxfam & HfH</p>	<p>Housing provides a vital entry point to address the challenges of climate- and disaster- resilience, inclusive development, and urbanisation, in an integrated manner. The purpose of this panel discussion is to explore the unique challenges and potential solutions to fulfil adequate, disaster-resilient, and inclusive housing needs of the people living in the South-Pacific. Each participant will share a country-specific shelter challenges, guide development process and its key findings, to derive a regional scale principle for shelter.</p>
<p>Innovate4Cities Urban Climate Marketplace Climate 1c – Executive Room Organisers: MC4C, GCOM & UN-Habitat</p>	<p>This session is focussed on tackling specific research and innovation knowledge, technology, policy, and/or partner gaps required by Pacific Island countries to address needs in their urban communities in efforts towards meeting the Paris Agreement, this Marketplace session within the Pacific Urban Forum will showcase how Pacific cities can work with partners in research and industry, fostering local solutions to unique challenges faced by the SIDS of Oceania.</p>
<p>Loss & Damage Proposal for a Pacific Pilot Climate 1d – Committee Room A Organisers: EAROPH</p>	<p>This session will outline ways in which a framework for addressing Loss & Damages could be most appropriately implemented to address the needs of urban settlements in the Pacific region. It will consider the issues of irreversible damage, repairing damage done, building resilience, and compensating for non-economic damage and loss.</p>

Day 2 Breakout Sessions – 1:00pm to 3:00pm

<p>Climate Migration & Human Security Climate 2a – Plenary Hall Organisers: UN ESCAP, PIFS, IOM, ILO, OHCHR, PDD</p>	<p>The session aims to raise awareness about the Pacific Climate Mobility Framework and foster collaboration among stakeholders for effective urban responses to climate-induced migration. The Pacific Climate Mobility Framework will provide Pacific Island Forum government members and stakeholders, with a coordinated approach to climate mobility in the Pacific region, considering the unique socio-cultural, economic, and environmental contexts of PICs. It contributes to the implementation of the Thematic Area, "Climate change and disaster" of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.</p>
<p>Youth Voices – Climate Impacted Communities Climate 2b – Fale Talanoa Space Organisers: Fiji NYC & Urban Youth Group</p>	<p>This session will focus on the strength of youth groups to organise and facilitate climate adaptation programs in urban settings. The National Youth Council provides a national perspective for youth engagement through their mangrove plantation, while the Bua Urban Youth Group's perspective and work in the Bua Province illustrates how young people can identify, research, and mobilise urban resources to aid rural settlements vis-a-vis climate change.</p>
<p>Nature-based Urban Climate Resilience Climate 2c – Committee Room B Organisers: RMIT, MC4C & UoVW</p>	<p>Nature-based solutions are increasingly being deployed to integrate 'hard' and 'soft' forms of infrastructure in urban areas, as well as rural ones, globally. This session will draw on emergent agendas and programmes from across the Pacific, including SIDA-funded informal settlement work in Honiara, and the NUWAO initiative (5 urban areas: Te Awakairangi and near Ōtepoti in Aotearoa; Apia in Samoa; Tarawa in Kiribati; and Port Vila and Lenakel in Vanuatu).</p>
<p>Climate Risk and Resilience Planning for Sust. Urban Design Climate 2d – Executive Room Organisers: WBG, ICLEI-GCOM & UN DRR</p>	<p>This session will explore the approaches taken by the Global Covenant of Mayors, the World Bank, and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) for assessing urban risks and incorporating measures into city master-planning for a resilient, inclusive, and liveable future.</p>
<p>Climate Justice Charter Climate 2e – Committee Room A Organisers: EAROPH</p>	<p>This session will introduce the emerging international models for Climate Justice Charters and to build on the foundation Pacific Charter that was developed at the recent Yidinji Workshop. Group discussion will be facilitated by different experts with a view to developing a Pacific Urban Charter.</p>

FROM URBAN ACTION TO GLOBAL & REGIONAL AGENDAS (Thurs 7th Sept)

Day 3 Breakout Sessions – 11:00am to 1:00pm

<p>Local SDG Awareness, Action & Leadership in the Pacific Multilevel 1a – Plenary Hall Organisers: Local 2030, ESCAP, MC4G & MSDI</p>	<p>This two-hour interactive PUF6 session brings together local governments, policymakers, stakeholders, and community leaders from Pacific Island countries to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level.</p>
<p>Mayoral Roundtable – Local Govt Sustainability Leadership Multilevel 1b – Fale Talanoa Space Organisers: CLGF & ICLEI-GCOM</p>	<p>This session will give an opportunity for city leaders to debate about their cities and how they can work together to strengthen PUF outcomes. It will focus on the role of local government in fostering sustainability leadership in urban areas and supporting urban citizens in their own efforts to support sustainable urban development.</p>
<p>PUF6 Outcome Document Drafting Committee Meeting Multilevel 1c – Executive Room Organisers: UN-Habitat</p>	<p>Closed session for members of the PUF6 Outcome Document drafting committee to develop the overarching themes coming out of the PUF6 conference, to be presented as part of the closing plenary.</p>
<p>UN-Habitat Professionals Forum Multilevel 1d – Plenary Hall Organisers: EAROPH</p>	<p>This session introduces the HPF Post-COVID Roadmap to a Just and Regenerative Recovery and will consider how it can be localised as a tool for SDG achievement. There are opportunities for Pacific contributions to further development of the 22 propositions for a restorative framework that departs from “business as usual”.</p>
<p>Affordable Housing Delivery & Part 2 - Risk Informed, Resilient Settlements Multilevel 1e – Committee Room B Organisers: HiP, & IFC</p>	<p>This interactive session will examine hybrid public-private-community partnership models, designed to deliver climate resilient affordable housing, strengthen communities, and stimulate local economies. Using case studies, it will highlight the risks and opportunities of the current models and discuss policy settings needed to make projects work for all parties.</p>

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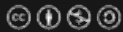


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THE
PACIFIC URBAN PARTNERSHIP

6th Pacific Urban Forum Summary Report



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