



Solution Exchange for the Development Effectiveness Community Consolidated Reply

DISCUSSION: Improving Effectiveness of Development Efforts in the Pacific

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From [PSE Facilitation Team](#)

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Recent Pacific Regional MDGs reports highlight that progress towards the achievement of the MDGs has been slow, uneven and generally off-track, despite high levels of development assistance. In 2009, Forum Leaders agreed to a new development compact - *Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific* (Cairns Compact) to improve the coordination and use of available FICs and development partners' resources to make real progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.

Evidence from the first year of implementing the *Cairns Compact* suggests that efforts to improve development coordination have increased although still slow and uneven across the FICs and development partners. The imminent threat of climate change, the fragmentation and unpredictability of aid and the weak link between country priorities and sector implementation and budgets all compound the vulnerability of Pacific Island Countries to accelerate progress to achieve the MDGs.

This discussion note asks you for your views on what might need to change or remain the same in our countries to address these concerns.

One year after implementation of the Cairns Compact, progress reports indicate that while efforts to enhance development coordination in the Pacific are being given high priority, attention is still required to address identifiable gaps. PIFS has coordinated the implementation of the Cairns Compact and has reported, among other findings, that in contexts where development coordination is difficult, on a country by country basis, one or two firm targets to change the pattern of how resources (both domestic and external) are being identified, managed and delivered, will keep the focus on mutual accountability, ownership, alignment and managing for results. Further, greater sharing of experiences in how to most effectively involve the non-government sector in planning and implementation of development activities is critical.

We invite you to share your experiences, insights, ideas and suggestions on the following questions:

- What priority actions and resources are needed – by both Pacific countries and development partners for Pacific countries to effectively lead and improve efforts to strengthening development coordination?
 - What is the role of the non-government sector in supporting more effective management and delivery of development outcomes?
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Responses were received, with thanks, from

1. [Chris Andrew](#), Greenlight Technology Group, New South Wales, Australia
2. [Garry Wiseman](#), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Suva, Fiji
3. [Noumea Simi](#), Aid Coordination Debt Management Division, Ministry of Finance, Apia, Samoa
4. Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji ([Response 1](#); [Response 2](#))
5. Keith Leonard, Development Consultant, Auckland, New Zealand ([Response 1](#); [Response 2](#))
6. [Ruth Maetala](#), Honiara, Solomon Islands
7. Grant Percival, Samoa Manufacturers Association, Apia, Samoa ([Response 1](#); [Response 2](#))
8. [Isiye Ndombi](#), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Pacific, Suva, Fiji
9. [Yves Henocque](#), LittOcean, France
10. [Ana Lotuma Falefehi Ika](#), Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Tonga
11. [Floyd Robinson](#), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Suva, Fiji
12. [Setareki Macanawai](#), Pacific Disability Forum, Suva, Fiji
13. [Charmaine Rodrigues](#), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Suva, Fiji
14. [Ian Thomson](#), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, New Caledonia
15. [Alvin Chandra](#), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland
16. [Litia Mawi](#), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Tuvalu

Further contributions are welcome!

[Summary of Responses](#)
[Comparative Experiences](#)
[Related Resources](#)
[Responses in Full](#)

Summary of Responses

The discussion on “**Improving Effectiveness of Development Efforts in the Pacific**” highlighted the importance of recognizing the differences that exist between countries in the way development priorities are established as well as how resources both internal and external are managed to meet national development objectives. The role and impact to date of the Cairns Compact in supporting national efforts to improve development coordination was also considered by some contributors. Members explored the question of aid coordination in detail and argued there is no one-size-fits-all magic formula for improving coordination and effectively utilizing resources (external and internal) towards the achievement of national development outcomes.

Responding to the question, “**what priority actions and resources are needed to effectively lead and improve efforts to strengthening development coordination,**” respondents noted that while it is difficult to generalize about what the priority actions should be, there are some opportunities, which Pacific Island Countries could choose to address.

Highlighting the importance of **country ownership** over development strategies and processes, discussants reiterated that without strong country leadership, clear policies for aid management and the ability to set clear sectoral policy, targets and budgets, Pacific countries will find it difficult to steer development interventions and assert their expectations. Discussants also noted that it is important for

development partners to work with national governments to identify how they can be most supportive to the improvement process.

Additionally there needs to be a strong and committed person or team at the country level leading the development coordination process with well defined objectives and a clear roadmap for advancing development coordination effectiveness. Since there is no automatic or standard template, which can be used as efforts are made to draw together a wide range of development partner policies and processes with those of the partner country, members suggested countries conduct internal self-analysis and reflection, so deviations and/or adjustments to their development roadmaps can be made.

Since there are no easy solutions, countries should also be ready for constructive criticisms, to take hard decisions and make the necessary changes. Enhanced ownership, respondents noted can help countries address tough questions, such as whether development targets are clear, measurable and can be met. National capacities also need to be determined at the outset so gaps can be tackled locally or built-into the development assistance package. This is needed if countries are to lead and own their development process. The ultimate goal is a results-based national strategy developed and owned by government, which clearly outlines interventions and funding gaps that development partners could address.

There is an increasing focus on **managing for results, improving decision-making processes and monitoring frameworks** to yield better results. To achieve this, members suggested countries do the following:

- Engage partners in a sustainable manner, so the focus shifts from considering good coordination mechanisms and processes (as the process should not be an end in itself) towards measuring the success of coordination through the achievement of better development results. Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of actions that lead to the achievement of (or deviation from) a desired outcome is just as important as how good the consultations, writing plans or linking plans to budgets are.
- Build a monitoring and measurement framework into regional coordination efforts. A system like Triple Bottom Line (TBL), which has been in existence for the past 20 years, provides a framework for measuring and reporting organizational performances against benchmarks.
- Consider the real impediments to effective delivery, trading and sustainable development.
- Focus on generating good data to use as sources for baseline studies, setting targets, performance monitoring and prioritizing investments.
- Produce and use equity maps to help determine who is/is not being reached and why.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Cairns Compact.

Discussants also identified improving **mutual accountability**, as one area countries could work on. Mutual accountability is defined as a technical agreement (on what is needed to be done) and a political agreement (to see the actions through, to generate public support, and to provide resources), and is a key principle of the Cairns Compact. Accountability depends on establishing an open and consistent dialogue about what works and what does not, and creating structures for that dialogue to happen. One idea for encouraging feeling of shared accountability, suggested by members was to stop using the word "aid" and instead use "partnership" in all forms of communication, to highlight the win-win principle of working together.

At the same time, a respondent questioned if a high degree of coordination is achievable, considering that foreign aid policies and development partner interests are often different from national priorities. Underpinning a belief that a high degree of coordination is possible, is the assumption that all parties agree on the means and ends and that self-interest does not play a role. Moreover, those leading and driving the coordination efforts in the region need to be aware of the multiple agendas and reasons behind the apparent commitment. Without an honest discussion on the reasons why development assistance is given or received, and what the self interests are, it is unlikely true coordination and

accountability will occur. What is needed, this member argued, is for leaders to facilitate discussions and propose actions that create “wins” for both stated and unstated objectives.

In addition to creating a greater sense of accountability, respondents recommended **improving transparency** to make planning, budgeting and accountability of external flows in developing countries more effective and level the playing field between providers and recipients of development assistance. The [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\)](#) portal discloses financial information, key publications, results of aid expenditure, conditions of aid and forward looking data. Such information can help developing countries better manage development assistance more effectively and link it more closely to their own planning and budgetary processes. Using a tool like IATI makes it easier to compare information across organizations and pave the way for innovative means of dispersing information, such as local dissemination through mobile phone technology.

Members also shared details about an approach being used in [Samoa](#) to provide petroleum and suggested aid organizations adopt a similar approach to make the “development process” more transparent and yield better returns and value for money. The same example goes further to suggest that a more open and competitive process is needed to ensure that local private sector entities get equal access to development assistance, thus promoting more transparent outcomes.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is another powerful tool for strengthening collaboration and promoting transparency. However, respondents noted that the use of this tool is being hindered by excessive costs, poor service, lack of training on how to use ICTs, frequent power outages and restrictive regulatory practices by governments. These obstacles have rendered many ICT initiatives, including IATI, inaccessible. In addition, many governments do not have an ICT policy or strategy and few donors recognize the importance of ICTs in their own policies and strategies. Until access to ICT is expanded and supported in the region, members argued, many aid efforts will be ineffective.

Exploring the “**role of the non-government sector in supporting more effective management and delivery of development outcomes**”, discussants identified two major roles for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to play – as partners and advocates. The non-government sector needs to be a partner in the development process, from consultation and planning to delivery and monitoring. This is especially important when programmes aim to involve women and marginalized groups, since NGOs are often best placed to make the connection between these groups and the broader development agenda. For example, organizations such as [FemLINK](#) and the Pacific Disability Forum acted as a communication channel between the marginalized groups they were working with and policy makers.

NGOs can also advocate for the needs of communities, and to make certain those needs are appropriately addressed within the government’s development processes. Therefore, the relationship between NGOs and the decision makers in parliament, in government and in the community is critical. While advocacy NGOs may have a more strained relationship with governments, because they often challenge policies being pursued by government and/or to highlight any negative or unintended outcomes of those policies, this is an essential role, members argued.

Other roles for NGOs to play, mentioned by members were:

- Investing in areas/sectors where the government is not. The government often focuses on core sectors, while development agencies tend to operate in sectors or issues in which they have a comparative advantage and thus are ideally placed to fill gaps.
- Aligning their activities with nationally agreed priorities to avoid duplication
- Developing “outside the box” strategies that can contribute to state and development sector activities
- Including the private sector. The private sector is often excluded when planning development activities, however it is often expected to carry on work when the intervention is complete. Interventions are more likely to be sustainable if there is more recognition and better support towards private sector’s contributions to development.

Finally, respondents discussed various **strategies for better collaboration and coordination at national level**. The strategies mentioned, included:

- Selecting government officers to act as focal points and strengthen formal and informal linkages with NGOs and provincial councils. The officers will update and ensure their respective department heads are aware of community based capacity building efforts, impacts on communities and lessons learnt.
- Government focal points maintaining regular updates and facilitating information flows from extension/rural offices to the heads of departments to ensure that key decision makers are aware of development work at community levels, and linking them to national development planning processes.
- Having NGOs regularly update respective government or provincial office representatives on progress at the community level can improve relationships and influence government planning and decisions.
- Developing equitable partnerships and genuine relationships between government and development NGOs, founded on strengths-based approach.
- Seeking out NGOs to contribute to government's reporting processes and areas for collaboration.
- Government and NGOs jointly discussing and evaluating the impacts of development.
- Developing better models of administration and financial management to enhance the role of the NGO sector in coordination.
- Increasing the involvement of NGOs in planning and implementation of development activities to ensure more broad based efforts to support development coordination. The [Outcomes Document](#) following the "Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific – Regional Workshop" identified five areas where action is needed:
 - Increasing transparency in partnership arrangements with government
 - Improving coordination within the non-government sector and with government
 - Having umbrella national non-government and private sector organizations take the lead in policy engagement, monitoring and reporting of aid flows, and tracking aid effectiveness
 - Strengthening regional engagement strategies with regional umbrella non-government entities
 - Introducing coherent funding mechanisms at national and regional levels
- Engaging and developing initiatives with the private sector aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth in the region.

Throughout the discussion, individuals representing governments, the private sector, the non-government sector and development partners, explored the multi-dimensional aspects and views of the development effectiveness agenda, stressing there is no homogeneous solution. They pointed out the main reason for the lack of coordination is limited capacity in some countries to ensure that sector priorities are fully integrated into the national strategy and development partner responses are coordinated with each other and with local resource inputs for maximum impacts.

By identifying some opportunities and the need for better coordination and development effectiveness at the national level, members also highlighted how essential it is to find long lasting solutions, not quick fixes. Overall, countries are urged to access the pool of knowledge on the topic and draw on this knowledge to reflect and deliberate, and/or apply depending on their situation and priorities.

Comparative Experiences

Fiji

Community Radio Station Strengthens Development Efforts in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas (from Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji; [response 1](#))

In 2004, FemLINKPACIFIC established a women's mobile community radio station, which takes radio to rural and semi-urban women providing them a chance speak on issues concerning them and suggest how

to solve these issues. Using the community radio platform, rural women's perspectives were documented, collated, and distributed to NGOs and policy makers, and local and international media including other community radio networks. This has improved coordination of development efforts. Read [more](#)

Samoa

Competitive and Transparent Tendering Process (from Grant Percival, Samoa Manufacturing Association, Apia, Samoa; [response 1](#))

In Samoa, petroleum is provided through a tender process. The tender process requires the delivery of the product at a cost based on the Singapore price. The tenderers are then asked to submit their percentage. Buyers have an independent means of determining the price of the product and a fixed margin that is determined in a transparent process. This process of distributing petrol has resulted in more transparency in the sector.

Related Resources

Recommended Documentation

Triple Bottom Line (TBL): It Consists of the Three Ps: Profit, People and Planet (from [Chris Andrew](#), Greenlight Technology Group, New South Wales, Australia)

Article; The Economist; 17 November 2009

Available at: <http://www.economist.com/node/14301663>

Describes how TBL was introduced to measure financial, social and environmental performance over a period of time, suggested as a way to measure the impact of development efforts

Pacific Plan the Digital Strategy (from Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji; [response 1](#))

Document; Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji; October 2005

Available at:

<http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/Pacific%20Regional%20Digital%20Strategy%20%28October%202005%29.pdf> (PDF, Size: 81 KB)

Acknowledged as a tool for improving development effectiveness by strengthening collaboration, improving transparency and connecting rural/remote communities to the development process

Cairns Compact 2009 (from Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji; [response 1](#) and [Noumea Simi](#), Aid Coordination Debt Management Division, Ministry of Finance, Apia, Samoa)

Document; Pacific Island Forum Secretariat; Suva, Fiji

Available at:

<http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/Cairns%20Compact%202009.pdf> (PDF, Size: 23.34 KB)

Compact's key objective is to promote more effective coordination of available development resources among Forum Island Countries & development partners, towards achieving on the MDGs

Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific – Regional Workshop, 21-24 February 2011, Outcomes Document (from [Ana Lotuma Falefahi Ika](#), Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Tonga)

Report; Pacific Island Forum Secretariat; Suva, Fiji

Available at: <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net/repository/pc/dec/edisc3-res1-en.pdf> (PDF, Size: 192 KB)

Reports on efforts to gain insights into approaches to strengthening development coordination, glean good practices, enhance CSO engagement and further refine the Compact's implementation

From [Charmaine Rodrigues](#), United Nations Development Programme, Suva, Fiji

Signatory Implementation

Note; IATI Secretariat; February 2011

Available at: <http://www.aidtransparency.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/Signatory-implementation-Update-24022011.doc> (Doc, Size: 62 KB)

As a commitment to transparency in aid, the table indicates how far donors have reached with implementing the Accra Agenda for Action.

Accra Agenda for Action

Statement; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC); September 2008

Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/58/16/41202012.pdf> (PDF, Size: 505 KB)

Endorsed statement made in Accra, Ghana, on 4 September 2008 to accelerate and deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2 March 2005).

From [Beatrice Olsson](#), PSE Facilitation Team

Reaching Our Development Goals: Why Does Aid Effectiveness Matter?

Report; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC)

Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/43/31/40987004.pdf> (PDF, Size: 747 KB)

Aims to stimulate dialogue around the aid reform effort embodied by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness so that stakeholders can better reflect and act together.

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

Report; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC); 2005

Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/15/3/46874580.pdf> (PDF, Size: 169 KB)

International commitment to continue to increase efforts to harmonize, align and manage aid for results with a set of actions and indicators that can be monitored.

Asian Development Bank's Progress on Aid Effectiveness: 2010 Update

Report; Asian Development Bank (ADB); Manila, Philippines

Available at: <http://www.adb.org/documents/policies/aid-effectiveness/aid-effectiveness-report-2010.pdf> (PDF, Size: 160 KB)

An update on ADB's progress in meeting its commitments under PDAE and AAA, the report focuses solely on the quantitative targets set by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

Recommended Programmes and Organizations

FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji (from Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls; [response 1](#))

Community Media Centre, 2nd Floor of the Bayly Trust Building, 193 Rodwell Road, Suva, Fiji; Tel: 679-3318160/0307 or 679-9244871; Fax 679-33072707;

<http://www.femlinkpacific.org.fj/index.cfm?si=main.resources&cmd=forumview&cbegin=0&uid=menuitem&cid=91>

Community media-based feminist organization raising awareness and ensuring human rights and security issues concerning women are being addressed in national policies

Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), Suva, Fiji (from [Setareki Macanawai](#))

24 Des Voeux Road, GPO Box 18458, Suva, Fiji Islands; Tel: 679-331-2008, 679-330-7530; Fax: 679-331 0469; <http://www.pacificdisability.org/default.aspx>

Promotes and facilitates Pacific regional cooperation on disability-related concerns for the benefit of people with disabilities, to match development activities targeted at people with disabilities

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Fiji (from [Charmina Saili](#), PSE Facilitation Team)

The Secretary General, PIFS, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji; Tel: 679-3312-600; info@forumsec.org.fj; <http://www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/strategic-partnerships-coordination/>

Political grouping of independent & self-governing states, mandated to coordinate Cairns Compact implementation for more effective coordination of internal and external development resources

Recommended Portals and Information Bases

Tonga Energy Roadmap 2010-2020 (TERM) (from [Chris Andrew](#), Greenlight Technology Group, New South Wales, Australia)

<http://www.tonga-energy.to/?cat=3>

Portal contains information on how multiple development agencies and various sectors are working together to address the challenges and advance the use of renewable energy in Tonga.

International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) (from [Charmaine Rodrigues](#), United Nations Development Programme, Suva, Fiji and [Ian Thomson](#), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, New Caledonia)

<http://aidtransparency.net/>

A new initiative to help those involved in aid programmes to better track what aid is being used for and what it is achieving, was launched in September 2008 in Accra, Ghana

Department for International Development (DFID), Government of the United Kingdom (from [Charmaine Rodrigues](#), United Nations Development Programme, Suva, Fiji)

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/What-transparency-means-for-DFID/International-Aid-Transparency-Initiative/>

DFID was the first donor to publish its aid information to the IATI standard in February, others are expected to follow, and remaining signatories have until the end of March 2011 to submit

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (from [Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls](#), FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji; [response 1](#))

www.femlinkpacific.org.fj

Recognizes the relevance of women's experiences of conflict, and ensures that the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolutions are incorporated at all times

Responses in Full

[Chris Andrew](#), Greenlight Technology Group, New South Wales, Australia

A major priority in the Pacific continues to be better management of development efforts in the Pacific to improve effectiveness of such efforts; however, I would say that "you cannot manage what you cannot measure". Without a common and transparent mechanism to audit development activity, any coordination of regional efforts will be compromised. A framework to measure the impact of development activity across economic, environment and social metrics will be necessary, and a system like Triple Bottom Line (TBL) has been in existence for almost 20 years, providing a framework for measuring and reporting organizational performance against economic, social and environmental benchmarks.

Reporting on TBL makes transparent the organization's decisions that explicitly take into consideration impacts on the environment and people, as well as on financial capital. It can be applied to the study of small or large businesses, government or non-government organizations or whole sectors of the economy.

I would also see the engagement of the private sector in leading Pacific industries such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and the like, as a key requisite for development coordination. Ultimately sustainable investment to accelerate improvements of MDGs in the region will stem from the private sector. Engagement and resources for the private sector to coordinate their activities in this area is key to long-term regional ownership of effective change.

To illustrate both points, let us look at the Tonga Energy Roadmap (TERM) (<http://www.tonga-energy.to/?cat=3>) by way of illustration. Here is a very clear example of multiple development agencies collaborating on an initiative that will deliver MDG benefits, though MDGs are not actually mentioned in the roadmap document. Within the project document there is loose mention of sustainability along economic, environmental and social lines, but there is no common method for reporting how various activities will be measured or reported for all the agencies involved to review.

Moreover, whilst private sector investment is flagged, there is no engagement plan to attract or coordinate this investment. Providing the an explicit Triple Bottom Line measurement tool for investments under the TERM, along with investment pathways and incentives mapped to the TBL framework for various leading industry sectors would be a constructive addition to the management of this development effort.

[Garry Wiseman](#), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Suva, Fiji

What priority actions and resources are needed – by both Pacific countries and development partners for Pacific countries to effectively lead and improve efforts to strengthening development coordination?

There are a broad range of experiences in the Pacific at the national level for promoting better development outcomes using a number of tools and processes to foster better development coordination. Country systems are different and the level of success and failure varies from country to country. Given that countries are at different stages in implementing ways to enhance development coordination it is difficult to generalize about what the priority actions should be in these circumstances it is important for development partners to work with the individual governments to identify how they can be most supportive to the improvement process.

However, what seems to be clear is that there needs to be a strong and committed person or team leading the process with a clear and well defined set of objectives and road map for advancing development coordination effectiveness. While national ownership must be paramount, there must also be scope for internal self-analysis and reflection so that deviations or adjustments in the roadmap can be made – there is no automatic or standard template which can be used as efforts are made to draw together a wide range development partner policies and processes with those of the partner country.

I think to be successful there must also be sustained engagement of all partners so that we shift the focus from considering good coordination mechanisms (where the greatest attention is paid to the process) to measuring the success of coordination through seeing better development results. Coordination is not only about how good one is at holding consultations and writing plans or even making a strong link between plans and budgets but whether actions were implemented that led to the achievement of the desired development outcome and in doing so you are able to demonstrate value for money.

What is the role of the non-government sector in supporting more effective management and delivery of development outcomes?

The Non-Government Sector has two major roles in supporting effective management and delivery of development outcomes. The first is in advocating for the needs of the community and ensuring that these needs are appropriately addressed in government development processes. In this role the NGO

relationship with the decision making processes in parliament, in government and in the community are critical.

The second role is in the implementation of a wide range of activities that should be aligned with the nationally agreed priorities. In this case the success of such implementation must be based on transparent and agreed criteria – in other words the NGO involvement must be seen to offer very tangible and cost effective benefits.

In both cases it must always be recognized that NGOs are often representing the interest of a section or sections in the community (often the most marginalized) and as a result maybe best placed to make the connection between these groups and the broader development agenda.

Noumea Simi, Aid Coordination Debt Management Division, Ministry of Finance, Apia, Samoa

Since we are again drawn into the discussions here is our penny's worth - the past days' discussions at the Cairns Compact workshop has brought out a range of issues on what priority actions countries should take and what the prerequisites are for strengthened coordination:

1. The question has to be asked as to why there is a need for strengthened coordination - there has got to be a recognition of the problem before one can work through setting out a solution
 2. Systems and processes need to be in place - even a review and in some cases reforms are necessary to ensure support for better development outcomes
 3. All parties involved must be clear of the development outcomes at the outset and the respective roles of all parties involved in bringing about the expected development outcomes
 4. There has to be a good policy framework and a determination of the level of interaction between countries and their development partners and at what level countries would like their DPs development partners to be engaged at/in so that do not handle the details of implementation. There also have to be processes for engaging DPs development partners on a periodic basis. A development cooperation policy spells out to DPs development partners the preferred modality for delivery of assistance
 5. Capacities need to be determined at the outset such that if there are gaps these are then to be addressed as part of the cooperation and DPs development partners are requested to invest in capacity development if countries are to continue to lead and own the development process
 6. Consistency and continuity of national capacities are vital to strengthened coordination including at sector level
 7. Our ultimate goal in the direction of strengthened coordination is a One Country strategy to which we will invite Development partners to discuss where they best fit into the national development process - we will then do without individual country strategies or broad-based multiagency frameworks
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Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji (response 1)

The following is based on the work of FemLINKPACIFIC's regional women's media and policy network on Women, Peace and Security/UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which includes the production of quarterly Women, Peace and Human Security reports (visit www.femlinkpacific.org.fj)

Our Women, Peace and Human Security (WPHS) reports serve as a reminder of the connection between human security, human development and human rights which are the basis of a number of global commitments adopted as a member state of the United Nations, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) and the Beijing Platform of Action, through the ratification of the UN Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the recognition of the role of women as key decision makers in all aspects of peace building including conflict prevention, as articulated in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security).

FemLINKPACIFIC's media and policy efforts also strive to strengthen their Women, Peace and Security architecture especially at the local level to support the development of a cadre of Peacewomen who can enhance their use of gender equality commitments such as 1325 to enhance their ability to communicate their human security and human development priorities to local and divisional leaders.

Production of our WPHS Fiji quarterly reports are to ensure women's experience as well as expertise and gender equality commitments remain visible especially for policy makers, development partners and other stakeholders in the Peace and Development arena.

The women's peace and human security findings are an opportunity to address some of the root causes of conflict and insecurities, from the home and community level, to contribute to strengthening current efforts to prevent the resurgence of conflicts and violence.

In the last quarter report of 2010, 303 women from Labasa, Savusavu, Nadi, Ba and the greater Suva Area have shared their stories, as well as contributed to our monthly Women's Household Income and Expenditure surveys. The information featured was also sourced through our women's media network and represent the situation of women we meet through interviews and monthly 1,325 network consultations staged by our team of rural correspondents and focal points, as well as community radio programmes.

What priority actions and resources are needed – by both Pacific countries and development partners for Pacific countries to effectively lead and improve efforts to strengthening development coordination?

There is a real need to see a connection between human rights-human security-human development including for women so there can be some solid linkages between "the theory" and the people's/women's realities and while relating these realities women use the language of human security, they are addressing their human rights or their right to gender inclusive development.

Recently during our second annual 16 days of Community Radio Campaign, economic security including the availability of safe and secure employment, health security, personal security through access to justice and law and order, and community security through access to land, topped the Women, Peace and Human Security agenda at a consultation convened by FemLINKPACIFIC in Labasa to commemorate World Human Rights Day. Our rural women are connecting with global campaigns through FemLINKPACIFIC's links with international media and feminist, women's human rights networks.

From December 1-11 2010 local women leaders participated in the 16 Days of Community Radio Campaign travelling from as far Tawake Village which is 120 km away from Labasa town to be part of today's consultation. The participants from Mali Island travelled almost an hour. First they took a 30 minute boat ride and then a 20 minute bus ride to join other participants from Naleba, Vunicuicui, Bua and Dogoru.

Through the radio programmes produced for 16 Days Community Radio Campaign they brought the stories of how realizing the human rights commitments to gender equality, is also about ensuring women have the platform and the means to enjoy these rights, to define development, and to address some of the root causes of conflict.

For Unaisi Dogunu from Tawake Village, access to quality health services, lack of job opportunities for women and the lack of community police posts in the rural areas are some of the most common issues faced by women from the different communities: "Nurses are not interested to be transferred to our village because they live in the dispensary clinics and when patients get admitted, the nurses have to find another place to live. We need better clinics, to improve the quality of health care provided to us. Also our group member from Vunicuicui has raised the issue of the non-availability of a community police post

in their area, as there is a lot of crime in their area by youth and the town police post is very far from their community."

Adi Makitalena who this year has assisted in the establishment of a multiracial women's forum in Naleba agreed adding that the rate of unemployment in Labasa is a major concern for many of the women at the consultation today: "Our main concern is lack of jobs and this gives rise to other problems such as poor education for children, no food on the table for family and financial problems," she said.

She added that women also would like to be able to access land and also be consulted and involved in land management issues so that they can also get directly involved in agriculture production, which would also enable food security at the family level: "(Currently) there is no assistance for land for the community and we can't plant any food crops because of the land issue. We also need the prices of the food items to go down as there is a lack of jobs in our communities, especially for women and we need it to happen now!" said Adi Makitalena as she made this call on behalf of the rural women from the communities in Labasa.

As a community leader, she is keen to see women mobilizing together to become stronger advocates for their peace and security, to define the type of development they would like: "(These) issues (of concern) have been here for a long time and we will keep raising these issues and concerns until proper authorities take action and I am calling on other women in the community to join us or other women's groups and make a collective call for action" she added.

What is the role of the non-government sector in supporting more effective management and delivery of development outcomes?

There are several roles for civil society - obviously one is as the partners in the development, delivery and monitoring of development programmes, especially when such programmes need to involve women and the too often marginalized groups.

The other role is to be able to adopt and address the gaps - after all the state and development agencies tend to focus on a few core development programmes and sectors which are also their priority areas - but that does not mean that these are the only sectors which need investing in.

Similarly the non-government sector also has innovative methods to contribute to the state and development sector which are "outside the box" and need to be simply given a chance - e.g. within the Pacific Plan the Digital Strategy

(<http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/Pacific%20Regional%20Digital%20Strategy%20%28October%202005%29.pdf>) is inextricably linked to enhancing livelihoods and connecting rural and remote communities to the development process - but it is the focus of a few Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies working with national governments and not enough civil society groups specializing in this area - even though some of us continue to advocate for inclusion in the process. But the efforts, e.g. with community radio/media, will continue by civil society, and there is therefore a need to also see what these efforts are and learn from them.

For example: FemLINKPACIFIC as a community media based feminist organization. And since our establishment in post-coup Fiji in 2000, the development of a women-centred information-communication system, working across ethnic divides in our society, enabling women's voices to connect with policy makers, the bureaucracy and development partners and broader civil society from 'the safe space' of their home and communities, outside of the capital city, has been the core of our everyday work. This has led to the development of a rural and regional media and policy network.

Our work makes the connection with, or serves to address the limited access to formal spaces of decision-making, women in Fiji continue to have limited access to public spaces for women's communications, which remain defined by the existing patriarchy of power, including the power of the corporate media. Subsequently access to information and communications channels, particularly the

affordability to use new technology, such as the internet remains the privilege of a few even though Fiji has adopted the "global policy agenda on gender equality" the Beijing Platform for Action.

In 2004, we established a women's mobile community radio station - FemTALK 89.2FM, which it has been taking radio out to rural and semi-urban women around Fiji providing them with an opportunity speak on issues concerning them but also suggest how these issues could be solved. It was also about challenging the status quo of existing decision-making structures in Fiji by enabling women, especially those from the rural areas and the poor to speak openly on common matters but it also involved the young women as well.

The suitcase radio has also been used as a training tool to empower women to speak to each other and with their communities. The suitcase radio has demonstrated the potential for community media, including community radio, as a critical bridge between rural and urban communities, giving voice to women, serving as a channel of information and communication for the marginalized and thereby assisting in the increasing awareness of the feminisation of poverty by continuing to link women's voices and issues through a range of media and policy initiatives, connected to critical international women's human rights commitments and conventions including the Beijing Platform of Action, UN Convention of the Elimination of all form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

This is what community radio is all about. It is about giving voice to the voiceless, being a communication channel for the marginalized and demonstrating the possibility of the democratization of information and communication channels within societies.

Using the community radio platform, rural women's perspectives are also documented, collated, and distributed in a range of formats (Women's Weekend Broadcasts in Suva, mainstream radio, newsletters, submissions, online audio clips as well as digital stories) to NGOs and policy makers, as well as local and international media including other community radio networks.

This is what our media work is about.

Keith Leonard, Development Consultant, Auckland, New Zealand (*response 1*)

The suggestions made to date are certainly sensible responses to the questions. However, in trying to answer the first question, I think it is important to also step back and take a wider view to ensure we are not providing the right answers to the wrong questions. I have to say that I've always had a nagging doubt that the Cairns Compact prescriptions are addressing the real ailments that are causing a less than desirable rate of progress towards achieving development outcomes or if they are necessary conditions for faster progress, that they are sufficient.

As I said in a previous discussion in this forum, I believe poor leadership and poor management are more important than a lack of coordination in holding back development. But putting this aside, and assuming that a lack of coordination of the development effort is an important problem that needs to be addressed, I'd like to ask "how realistic is it to believe that we can achieve a high degree of coordination?" Underpinning a belief that a high degree of coordination is possible is the assumption that all parties agree on means, and ends and that self-interest plays no role.

In my experience life is not like that and attempts to "paper over the cracks" by appearing to agree on means and ends and not stating self-interest is not going to achieve more than "apparent coordination" - that is, we appear to be coordinating when we are not really.

So, if I'm right, so what? Ideally, it would help if we could air our differences a bit more and be a bit more honest about the reasons why we are either giving or receiving development assistance, and what

our own self-interest is. However, this probably won't happen. Nonetheless, those crafting the discussions around the subject, and leading resultant actions need to be aware of the multiple agendas behind the apparent unanimity of views in order to lead discussions and propose actions that create "wins" for both stated and non-stated objectives.

I hope this contribution is not too "airy fairy" for practitioners who just want to get on with the job but I think it is important to also question whether we are "doing the right job" as well as are we "doing it right."

Incidentally, and here I declare my self-interest and my bias, when will the Cairns Compact be evaluated? How are we going to measure its success?

Ruth Maetala, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Hi [Sharon](#), just wanted to ask who is your audience when you facilitate the rural radio program - public, government, NGOs and how? I'd like to learn more about facilitating voiceless voices particularly to decision making processes and decision makers.

Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, FemLINKPACIFIC, Suva, Fiji *(response 2)*

The audience for the suitcase radio broadcasts in Suva is indeed the policy makers and broader civil society who can be informed by the programmes. Community radio is our media-ICT platform which enables women's issues to be made public i.e. through the public airwaves; the broadcast space is dedicated to issues raised by women through the radio programmes we produce with them - and that's why we created the Women's Weekend Radio Format - we compliment this with the policy reports and media publications.

At local level/rural we have been linking with local government and also linked to divisional level government - and the process (because community radio is more than just the equipment but the process of how radio content is produced) has evolved to include an interactive dialogue process with local government officials as we did in Nadi recently; the women community leaders have an opportunity to develop and ask questions about their development priorities - issues raised range from personal security/safety, disability access, health issues.

FemLINKPACIFIC's website (<http://www.femlinkpacific.org.fj>) has some of our community radio resources. Hope this is helpful.

Grant Percival, Samoa Manufacturers Association, Apia, Samoa *(response 1)*

My 2 cents worth:

There is no doubt that we need to somehow achieve sustainable development, to do that we need the right interventions, in the right format and to the right group. The UN measures are really about achieving a better quality of life for all. At present the current WTO regime is being driven by developed countries like New Zealand and Australia particularly for us in the Pacific. These countries essentially want to be able to trade their goods which are agriculturally based and can succeed against our small markets because they have some economies of scale.

Their approach is based on their sustainable advantages achieved through years of development, support and state sponsored development assistance. When the WTO started to eliminate these, the major countries continued to apply them as they do so today because might is right. NZ and Australia had to comply or lose market access, so this is being passed onto the Pacific.

So how does this apply to improving aid effectiveness in the Pacific? Well, when you import goods and sell them below their very real cost of production in large developed economies with economies of scale this has the effect of destroying any ability of the Pacific Island countries to develop effective growth in industrial or even agricultural jobs. Structural business statistics clearly show the hollowing out of agriculture and industry with the lowering of tariffs and the lack of an effective countervailing system to ensure that the goods are actually being sold at the real cost of production.

So if you reduce the ability of local agricultural and manufacturing industry to compete you drive down the ability of these industries to become efficient and effective suppliers because there are no funds for continual improvement either with the use of improved husbandry and agronomy advice and or the importation of improved manufacturing capacity. Tariffs used to provide a barrier behind which this development was allowed to occur but there was also direct support for inputs and exports – i.e. red box policies. So on the continuum of development, we have not allowed for this in the Pacific island countries.

Aid can be effective when you can show with an analysis of the long term impact how it will create opportunities for income earning or improvements in sustainability but it needs to be aligned to sustainable competitive advantages such as can be created by let's say water and products like beer and cola. With cola – let's say you import one container of syrup - this can be mixed with good water at the rate of 20 or even 40 to one and the saving would be at a minimum of between 22 to 45 container loads of imported final product. So it is worthwhile to then import concentrate and carbonate it into a final product. It also provides improved job opportunities and better skill set development and a better quality of life for those working in the industry. This analysis can also be done for a variety of production capacities.

For agriculture the harvest season in the temperate zones is in the autumn - after the summer growth. For production outside these times greenhouses are built with heating to enable all year round production. To do this you need active systems that use energy. In the Pacific we can grow all the same products all year round but need passive (low energy) systems these are usually shade cloth, ground cover, irrigation and fencing. Australia produces varieties that do well in the warmer climates and these are available as they are designed for the northern territories. So there are ways of improving their production and availability in the Pacific with very little input and much more sustainably than in the temperate zone. It shall pass some of the growth capacity to the Pacific island countries in a sustainable manner.

However, there is a reality Governments can facilitate, hinder, assist, stop, develop and provide for opportunities for this but history shows that when they try and do it, they fail to achieve the desired purpose as they fail to allow for the competitive impacts of allowing the private sector to compete.

A very successful model that tries to reduce costs and improve deliveries based on a competitive model is in effect in Samoa. The provision of petroleum is made on a tender process. The tender process calls for the delivery of the product at a cost based on the Singapore price of the same product and the tenderers are asked to submit their percentage. You then have an independent means of determining the price of the product and a fixed margin that is determined in a transparent process. Too often when the aid comes in it is not tendered for, but given to the most appropriate vehicle even if it may not be the best. In fact, if it was tendered for delivery, and bids were sought from the private sector and public sector bodies, and the best bid was to get the job, we would get a more transparent process and better returns for the aid being delivered with more transparent outcomes.

The instrument by which aid coordination is achieved does not include the sector that is usually expected to carry on work when the intervention is complete and that is the private sector. As a result, these interventions are not always designed to continue on sustainably. Maybe aid coordination should include all the stakeholders that would and should make aid the foundation for growth and development.

[Isiye Ndombi](#), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Pacific, Suva, Fiji

Very good views have already been aired on this platform on how to make development efforts more effective in the Pacific. Allow me to add to the various suggestions by further highlighting three issues that, I believe, will contribute to accelerated development.

First, we need to focus on generating good data which will be the source of baselines, targets, performance monitoring and prioritization of investment. The Cairns Compact peer review process could strengthen its audit function in this regard to help governments to raise their bar in knowledge management. The challenge we have in a number of situations is that where there is data it is neither fully utilized to help in decision-making nor in tracking progress. And the data is not often interpreted or messaged to enable the Ministers of Finance or donors to see the potential return on investment.

Second, we need to produce equity maps of our countries to determine who is being reached and why; and who is not being reached and why. The map should use factors such as geography, gender, age, disability, poverty and others. Coordination should aim to facilitate dialogue to find solutions that resolve the inequities and to determine who has the comparative advantage to close the gaps. If this is done properly, you'll see the role of various partners, including non-government and private sector organizations emerging clearly.

Third, every development partner -- including governments, donors and other development practitioners -- must be ready to ask themselves tough questions as to whether their development targets are clear, measurable and whether they are being met. They should be ready for constructive criticism. And they should be ready to take hard decisions and change.

Unfortunately none of these are entirely easy. But we won't make progress if we wait for easy solutions.

[Yves Henocque](#), LittOcean, France

Many thanks for this great and unusual exchange of views!

A one cent comment: To come to [Grant Percival's](#) worth much more than 2 cents comment, I would like to pinpoint one word I really try to get rid of when working in development projects, it is the "aid" word which I think is terrible because of its connotation.

I remember reading the 1992 Rio Conference special NGO report, with a quotation from an Indigenous Australian saying this: "If you come to help us you can go back home straight away, if you come to work with us then maybe we can make something together"...

Since that reading, I have always replaced "aid" by "partnership", which is not just about the word but about the state of mind and this win-win principle in working together. Partner means a contract in clear, whatever it is, moral, soft law or legal, and that makes the nature of the relationship quite different. It's not about the illusion of putting oneself on an equal foot but it is about feeling accountable to each other on both sides.

Changes in behaviour should be true for everybody, no exception!

[Grant Percival](#), Samoa Manufacturers Association, Apia, Samoa (response 2)

Another issue that is frequently not stated in the Pacific is that intra-country costs can exceed into-country costs. To travel between the islands in the Pacific is more expensive for goods and services than travelling to the main centres from the developed countries not only because of economies of scale but

also because of the fact that the islands are sea locked and sea or air transport is much more expensive than in countries with road transport. Therefore effective delivery will require a need to consider these real impediments to development, trading and sustainable developments.

An advantage is the isolation can be built upon to create growth areas that may not be conceivable in developed economies because of the pollution that occurs in these areas. As an example the levels of isolation in the Pacific is at times equivalent to over 5.8 kWh per square metre. So on a sunny day during our southern summer the levels of energy being produced are in excess of 60kwh per square meter and frequently when we look at renewables we do not look at it in terms of our sustainable competitive advantages.

Ana Lotuma Falefehi Ika, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Tonga

I attach a link, <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net/repository/pc/dec/edisc3-res1-en.pdf> (PDF, Size: 192 KB) to the final Outcomes Document of the Regional workshop – 'CAIRNS COMPACT on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific', 21-24 Feb 2011, Nadi – Fiji. This will help in addressing the issue raised below.

Floyd Robinson, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Suva, Fiji

Both parties (NGOs and governments) have an equally important role in ensuring the NGO sector's role in supporting more effective management and delivery of development outcomes.

From a government perspective, relevant officers could strengthen linkages (both formal and informal) with NGOs as well as provincial councils to ensure that their respective department heads are aware of community based capacity building efforts, impacts experienced by communities and lessons learnt. Regular updates and information flows from extension offices/rural offices to the heads of government departments are also quite important as these will ensure that key decision makers (i.e. those formulating policies/national plans/sector corporate plans/budgetary processes) are aware of development work at community levels and linkages to national development planning processes. This could be included as a component for induction/orientation for new employees.

From an NGO perspective, I feel that reports can be strengthened by aligning them whenever possible to national development priorities and sharing these with government. The importance of NGOs keeping respective government and provincial office representatives regularly updated is important. This will not only lead to ongoing government support for NGOs but could possibly influence government planning/reporting processes and joint collaboration wherever possible.

Apart from the informal networks (between government & NGOs) which appear effective in some Pacific island countries, I am of the opinion that there is a need to strengthen and/or commence consultations whereby NGOs and government jointly discuss and evaluate impacts of developments. This may not always be possible depending on relationships between the two stakeholders but I feel that there is a need to look for common grounds and build on them. Having said that, it's also realistic to acknowledge that NGOs are not homogenous and have a range of focus areas (e.g. health, education, environment, nutrition, etc.) .

Therefore it's not always fair to classify NGOs as single group as they have very different approaches to development and sector focus. Furthermore, the nature of development challenges and priorities of governments vary from country to country and within regions (Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia).

Keith Leonard, Development Consultant, Auckland, New Zealand (response 2)

[Floyd's points](#) are well made with respect to development NGOs - these can and should have a generally harmonious relationship with government, and they can align their actions with national policies.

Advocacy NGOs may have a more strained relationship with governments while contributing significantly to development outcomes. The role of advocacy NGOs is to challenge the policies being pursued by Government and/or to highlight the any negative/unintended outcomes of those policies. The challenge for advocacy NGOs to fulfill their role in such a way that policies change for the better. The other outcome is that the advocacy NGO becomes marginalised and simply "preaches to the converted."

[Setareki Macanawai](#), Pacific Disability Forum, Suva, Fiji

Further to the valuable input from [Floyd](#) and [Keith](#), I want to point out that for successful and effective development outcomes, there must be equal partnership and genuine relationship between government and development NGOs founded on the strengths-based approach. Otherwise, such development initiatives are played in an uneven playing field exacerbated by mistrust, suspicion, fear and exploitation amongst others!

[Charmaine Rodrigues](#), United Nations Development Programme, Suva, Fiji

Please see below for a News Update from the International Aid Transparency Initiative:

"This month, members of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) (<http://aidtransparency.net/>) agreed to a common aid transparency standard, which comprises financial information at the agency and project level, disclosure of documents, results, conditions of aid and forward-looking data. Negotiations between 18 donor signatories, including UNDP, 19 developing countries endorsers, NGOs and CSOs began in 2009.

This was a few months after the Accra Agenda for Action (PDF, Size: 505 KB, <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/58/16/41202012.pdf>) and the IATI Accra Statement were endorsed. Transparency is essential for improving the planning, budgeting and accountability of external flows in developing countries and for leveling the playing field in relations between aid providers and recipients. Delivering it in a common way will allow for comparability of the information across organizations and pave the way for innovations, including in the accessibility of data by citizens in developing countries through mobile phone technology, and for the geo-coding of project interventions for better resource allocation decisions.

Part one of the IATI Standard, agreed last July, provided for publication of more detailed and timely aid information – two key commitments made in the Accra Agenda for Action. Last month's meeting saw important new items added to the IATI standard including:

- Publication of key documents, in addition to aid data;
- Publication of conditions and, where available, results of aid expenditure;
- Publication of forward looking activity-level (i.e. individual projects and programmes) budgets and forecasts;
- Proposals to improve the alignment of aid to partner country budget classifications.

Adding these elements to the Standard will support IATI signatories in meeting key Accra commitments, many of which were identified as priorities during IATI partner country consultations. Publication of this information will help developing countries to manage aid resources much more effectively and ultimately help them link aid much more closely to their own budgetary planning process. This will be a 'living' standard, updated from time to time based on experience. But now that IATI's work in defining the Standard is nearing completion, the focus of attention will turn to implementation. DFID (<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/What-transparency-means-for-DFID/International-Aid->

[Transparency-Initiative/](http://www.aidtransparency.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/Signatory-implementation-Update-24022011.doc)) became the first donor to publish its aid information to the IATI standard in February, and others are expected to follow shortly. Remaining signatories have until the end of March to submit their implementation schedules – an update on these can be found here <http://www.aidtransparency.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/Signatory-implementation-Update-24022011.doc>.”

Ian Thomson, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, New Caledonia

I would like to draw attention to the underlying assumptions of the International Aid Transparency Initiative. It requires access to, and effective use of ICTs. Even the declaration itself is more widely read via the internet than any other medium.

Collaboration and openness are mostly enabled by ICTs, at least in today's age. However, this is not possible for a large number of Pacific Islanders. Their access to the internet and computers is greatly limited by excessive costs, poor service and restrictive practices. Many Government officials cannot go online due to power outages, broken equipment and lack of adequate training.

ICTs are recognized powerful tools for the many aspects of development; in fact the UN says that achieving the MDG's is impossible without the effective use of ICTs. However we are limiting the use of such tools throughout the Pacific.

Less than half the Governments of the Pacific have an ICT policy or strategy. Very few donors recognize the importance of ICTs in their policies and strategies. Many ICT initiatives underperform due to lack of such support. Until we liberalize the use of powerful tools such as ICTs in the Pacific, many aid efforts will be inefficient.

Alvin Chandra, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland

One of the key outcomes of the "Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination" was improved access to and management of climate change resources. Following the Cairns Compact, and in November 2010, the UNCTAD released the Least Developed Countries Report, which recommends a more transparent and representative governance for climate-development finance. Together with the LDCs, I think this recommendation is also relevant to many Pacific countries.

The report proposes a new framework for cooperation and the creation of the New International Development Architecture (NIDA) for the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world. The report serves as a major input to the policy debate for the fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries to be held in Turkey this May. I would like to share my thoughts on improving climate-development efforts and engagement of CSOs from the perspective of the UNCTAD Report and the Cairns Compact.

Both the UNCTAD Report and the Cairns Compact outcomes call for improving coordination of climate-development effort. Co-ordination in Pacific countries could take form via means of national 'roadmaps' for climate finance mechanisms. Such a roadmap should coherently identify initiatives to engage with community groups and smaller organisations, mainstream climate risk management into key sectors and macro level policies (e.g. economic planning and budget process, land use planning, energy, transport, and coastal management); insurance and compensation mechanisms for development projects; and prioritising joint working/investment plan with NGOs to focus more on implementation. A priority action to help facilitate this process is to have a decentralised implementation strategy that will define policies aiming to reduce vulnerability and community hardship.

I am of the view that the NGO sector has a great potential in empowering local communities in dealing with climate/economic vulnerability. The diversity of NGO thematic work programmes, representation across community groups, strong presence in community decision-making processes and relations with development partners is an opportunity to develop synergies between development, poverty reduction and climate change agendas, especially in the area of adaptation. Joint-working and co-ordination with NGOs and community-based organisation can help facilitate adaptation process, enhance local adaptive capacity, test climate risk screening tools, and identify appropriate entry points for climate information.

The UNCTAD Report and Cairns Compact no doubt reiterate the need to use climate finance and deliver results. While it remains to be seen whether new moves in international development finance for climate change is sufficient for addressing climate vulnerability, it shouldn't compromise national efforts to organise multi-level participation in climate-development. Better models of administrative and financial management are a key to enhancing the role of the non-government sector in coordination of climate-development initiatives.

Litia Mawi, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Tuvalu

Over this past decade alone, the focus on AID and Development Effectiveness promoted by the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action, the Pacific Principles on AID Effectiveness and the Cairns Compact, has definitely seen an increased attention to public finance but comparatively little to growing the economy.

1. The Government, any Government in the Pacific, must cease to be merely talking about "Economic Growth". It must instead begin "To actively grow the economy".
2. Then the Government needs to deliberately redefine its role by letting go to the private sector to become the "engine of that growth amidst all constraints and against all odds".
3. The mindsets and lenses of the senior-most Government officials must change to accommodate this handover. There is still too much cynicism and mistrust of the Non-Government Sector. That must change.
4. It is only in this way that over these remaining five years of the MDGs (2011-2015), would there be maximum returns on AID through AID for TRADE and through the deliberate mainstreaming of trade into all possible sectors of the economy.
5. It is also only in this way that the private sector and civil society can be key players in appropriately shaping and influencing public policy on overall development outcomes to ensure total development effectiveness.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this discussion!

If you have further information to share on this topic, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Development Effectiveness Community in the Pacific at pse-dec@solutionexchange-un.net with the subject heading "Re: [pse-dec] DISCUSSION: Improving Effectiveness of Development Efforts in the Pacific. Additional Reply."

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