

REGIONAL DISABILITY DEVELOPMENT- LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND FOR A BETTER, INCLUSIVE AND FREE PACIFIC FOR ALL

Preamble

Disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. “Nothing about us without us and no one left behind.”

Persons with disabilities represent a sizeable number in the Pacific; with the estimated 1.7 million people in the Pacific region have some form of disability¹. The Pacific Island region has some of the highest burdens of non-communicable disease in the world, representing a threat to the social, economic, and health security of the region.

The growing rates of NCD-related disability in the region as obesity, diabetes, result in high rates of vision impairment, strokes and amputations². Hence, the growing disability population is exacerbated by the high burden of NCD related-disabilities.

The Forum Leaders meeting held in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in 2013 endorsed a long term strategy to succeed the PRSD. Hence, the draft Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD) has been developed and consulted and needs to be endorsed by the Leaders at the 47th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting. The PFRPD would allow the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, other regional organisations, development partners and civil society organisation a platform for engaging with governments on disability inclusive development and progress at the national level.

In the region, 15 out of the 16 Forum member countries have either ratified or signed the UNCRPD which reaffirms that disability is an important regional and global issue. Persons with disabilities in the Pacific have the following short and long term aspirations on disability inclusive development for the region:

- To have an inclusive Pacific society where all human rights of all Persons with Disabilities are realized
- To encourage and support all Pacific Island Countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

¹ <http://www.pacificdisability.org/About-Us/Disability-in-the-Pacific.aspx>

² Non Communicable Disease Related-Disability in the Pacific Islands Project Report, June 2015 – Pacific Research Centre for the Prevention of Non-Communicable Disease (C-POND)

Disclaimer: Please note that these papers present the views of the civil society representatives that participated in the Regional Civil Society Organisation Forum and do not necessarily represent the views of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

2016 Regional Civil Society Organization Forum

Position Papers on Regional Policy initiatives

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

- To encourage and support all Pacific Island Countries to have National Disability Policy and Legislation that is aligned to the CRPD and the PFRPD
- Mainstream Disability issues into national development and sectoral plans
- That CROP agencies and development partners in the region include disability in their programs

We call on the Pacific Island Forum Leaders to:

1. Endorse the Pacific Regional Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the 47th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in FSM
2. To task the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to allocate funding and provide technical assistance to implement and monitor the PFRPD in partnerships with development partners and other stakeholders.
3. To ensure PRFPD is mainstreamed into national plans and policies supported by adequate resources.
4. To mandate the Economic, Education, health and other relevant meetings of Forum Ministers and Officials to adopt and mainstream the PFRPD.