



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Implementing Sustainable Development Goals through a human rights perspective

Seminar for the Pacific parliaments organized jointly by the Parliament of Fiji and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

16, 17 and 18 November 2016, Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi (Fiji)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1. BACKGROUND, PURPOSE AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEMINAR

In September 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to guide their development agendas and policies over the next 15 years. The full text of the SDGs and targets are available online at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>.

Human rights and SDGs are integrally linked and mutually reinforcing. Human rights provide an important legal framework for the implementation of SDGs. In turn, the implementation of the SDGs will contribute to the enjoyment of human rights.

Under the auspices of the IPU, parliaments have committed to translating the SDGs into enforceable domestic laws, to holding governments to account and to aligning budgets with national sustainable development plans. In order to deliver on this commitment, parliaments and decision-making processes have to be strengthened so that they are fit for purpose.

The seminar for the parliaments of the Pacific aims to promote greater awareness among parliamentarians about the SDGs and how parliaments can contribute to their implementation. The meeting will focus on SDGs that are of particular relevance to the region, such as those related to climate change, gender equality and social equity. Participants will also look at international human rights norms and mechanisms, in particular the work and procedures of UN Human Rights Council, to help ensure that the implementation of the SDGs is fully respectful of human rights.

#### Specific Objectives

- Discuss ways to strengthen parliamentary involvement in the implementation of the SDGs in the Pacific region;
- Increase understanding of ways in which the countries of the region domesticate the SDGs;
- Expose parliaments to the IPU Self-Assessment toolkit on SDGs;
- Encourage strong engagement of parliaments in the elaboration and the execution of national development plans and strategies designed for the implementation of the SDGs;
- Consider/examine where national and regional cooperation work might be mutually reinforcing and exchange good practices;
- Promote a better understanding of how national parliaments promote and protect human rights and strengthen the rule of law;
- Discuss how parliaments could increase their contribution to the work of the Human Rights Council and UPR, including through institutional measures

#### Expected results

- A greater understanding of the link between SDGs and human rights, and of the way parliaments could work to their parallel implementation;

- A greater parliaments' awareness of ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs;
- Elaboration of parliamentary strategy for their (future) actions to the implementation of the SDGs;
- A wider examination of the ways in which parliaments of the Pacific islands could combine their efforts more effectively for a successful implementation of the SDGs;
- An increased awareness of the practical and direct involvement of, and an effective contribution of the parliaments of the Pacific islands in the UPR and in the work of the special procedures and treaty bodies.

## Debates

The seminar will be interactive. Experts will deliver their presentations, followed by a moderated question-and-answer session. Each will last roughly 15 minutes. Presentations will be followed by a discussion, including questions, comments and reflections from the participants. Where there are several questions, the experts will answer them in batches of five.

## 2. VENUE AND DATE

The seminar will be held on 16, 17 and 18 November 2016 at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi. The following are the contact details:

<b>Tanoa International, Nadi</b> Ms. Cathy Nuku - Conference Manager	Tel. + 679 672 0277 -Ext. 1534 Email: <a href="mailto:tihconference@tanoahotels.com">tihconference@tanoahotels.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.tanoainternational.com">www.tanoainternational.com</a>
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## 3. PARTICIPATION

This seminar is open to the parliaments of the Pacific including: Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. These parliaments are invited to send a delegation of a maximum of five parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, gender-balanced and reflecting the political representation of the parliament. It is recommended that the members of the delegation work directly on human rights issues in their parliaments. Representatives of the civil society, national human rights institutions as well as international organizations present in Fiji and in the region working on the implementation of the SDGs and active in the promotion of human rights are also invited to the seminar.

## 4. WORKING LANGUAGE

The working language of the seminar will be English.

## 5. ACCOMMODATION

Participants are informed that they are responsible for their own air fare and accommodation. The hotels suggested below have been made available for participants attending the seminar at the rates shown below. Participants are kindly requested to make their reservations by duly completing and returning the form indicating the duration of stay (number of nights) and their preferred room type directly to the hotel. They are also kindly requested to forward copies of their hotel accommodation to the Secretariat Contact Persons (see No. 12).

<b>Tanoa International, Nadi</b> Ms Cathy Nuku - Conference Manager Tel. + 679 672 0277 -Ext. 1534 Email: <a href="mailto:tihconference@tanoahotels.com">tihconference@tanoahotels.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.tanoainternational.com">www.tanoainternational.com</a> <small>*Inclusive of Full Breakfast*</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single Superior</b> FJD\$185.00 per night	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single Executive</b> FJD\$220 per night
<b>Naviti Resort</b> Ms Susana Bolakoro Sales / Distribution Channels Coordinator Tel. +679 6530 444   Cell. +679 8980 167 Email <a href="mailto:navitisales1@warwickhotels.com">navitisales1@warwickhotels.com</a> Web <a href="http://www.fiji.travel/us/accommodation/naviti-resort">www.fiji.travel/us/accommodation/naviti-resort</a> <small>* A 25% non-refundable deposit applies. Cancellation 21 days prior to arrival = 50% cancellation penalty incurred. Early departure / check out incurs full cancellation penalty fee based on full stay duration</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Garden View Room</b> Bed & Breakfast <b>FJ\$199.00</b> VIP per night  All Inclusive <b>J\$455.00</b> VIP per night	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ocean View Room</b> Bed & Breakfast <b>FJD\$254.00</b> VIP per night  All Inclusive <b>FJ\$510.00</b> VIP per night

<p><b>Warwick Resort</b> Mr Dennis Wah Tel: + 679 653 05 55   Cell + 679 898 36 64 Email: <a href="mailto:dwah@warwickhotels.com">dwah@warwickhotels.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.warwickhotels.com/fiji-resort">www.warwickhotels.com/fiji-resort</a> <small>* Inclusive of 25% tax (VAT of 9%, Service Turnover Tax of 10%, Environmental Levy of 6%). Inclusive of Buffet Breakfast daily for two</small></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Twin Garden View   Queen Ocean View   Twin Ocean View</b> FJ\$335</p>
<p><b>Novotel Hotel – Nadi</b> Ms. Swastika Raj Conference &amp; Sales Supervisor Tel: + 679 6722000 Email: <a href="mailto:reservations@novotelnadi.com.fj">reservations@novotelnadi.com.fj</a> Web: <a href="http://www.accorhotels.com">http://www.accorhotels.com</a> <small>*Fully flexible rate &amp; Breakfast inclusive For fully flexible rate, provide a credit card to secure reservation. Cancellation - 72hours notice to avoid late cancellation or non-arrival fees</small></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Single Superior</b> FJD\$202.75</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Deluxe</b> FJD\$241.25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> FJD\$265.50</p>

## 6. VISAS

Passport holders of the following countries are exempt from entry visas to Fiji: Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

## 7. REGISTRATION

Participants are requested to complete and return their Registration Form **no later than 4 November 2016** to the Secretariat Contact Persons (see No. 12).

## 8. REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

A registration and information desk will be available to participants as of 15 November 2016 at the reception hall of the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 3 to 5.30 p.m. Participants are invited to register at this desk upon arrival. The registration desk will provide participants with an identity badge and all material related to the seminar.

## 9. ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE AND TRANSPORT

A welcome service will be set up at the Nadi International Airport from **14 to 19 November 2016**. This service will provide immigration, customs and luggage retrieval assistance and transfers from the airports to hotels. It will also handle transfers between hotels and the airport at the end of the seminar.

Participants are requested to complete and return the Registration form providing their arrival and departure details to the Parliament of Fiji and IPU contact persons indicated below, thus enabling the organizers to handle participants' arrival as promptly as possible. A shuttle service will be provided from the airport to the participants' hotel.

## 10. MEALS

Lunches will be hosted and coffee breaks provided at the meeting venue.

## 11. GENERAL INFORMATION

The national currency in Fiji is the Fijian Dollar. As at 10 October 2016, the rate was at 1.00 USD=2.05FJD. The voltage in Fiji is 240V, 50Hz with socket and plug Type I.

Fiji has a warm tropical climate. Maximum temperatures in Fiji rarely move out of the 31C to 26C range all year round.

## 12. SECRETARIAT CONTACT PERSONS FOR INFORMATION

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<b>Copy to:</b>	
<b>Ms. Lois Vakarau</b> Manager, Executive Support Unit Parliament of the Republic of Fiji PO Box 2352, Government Building Suva Fiji  Phone: + 679 3225602 Mobile: + 679 9908 150 Fax: + 679 3315 028 e-mail : <a href="mailto:lois.vakarau@parliament.gov.fj">lois.vakarau@parliament.gov.fj</a>	<b>Mr. Akiyo AFOUDA</b> Programme Officer Inter-Parliamentary Union 5, Chemin du Pommier 1218 Grand-Saconnex Geneva (Switzerland)  Tel.: +41 22 919 41 23 Fax: +41 22 919 41 60 e-mail: <a href="mailto:aa@ipu.org">aa@ipu.org</a> / <a href="mailto:postbox@ipu.org">postbox@ipu.org</a>