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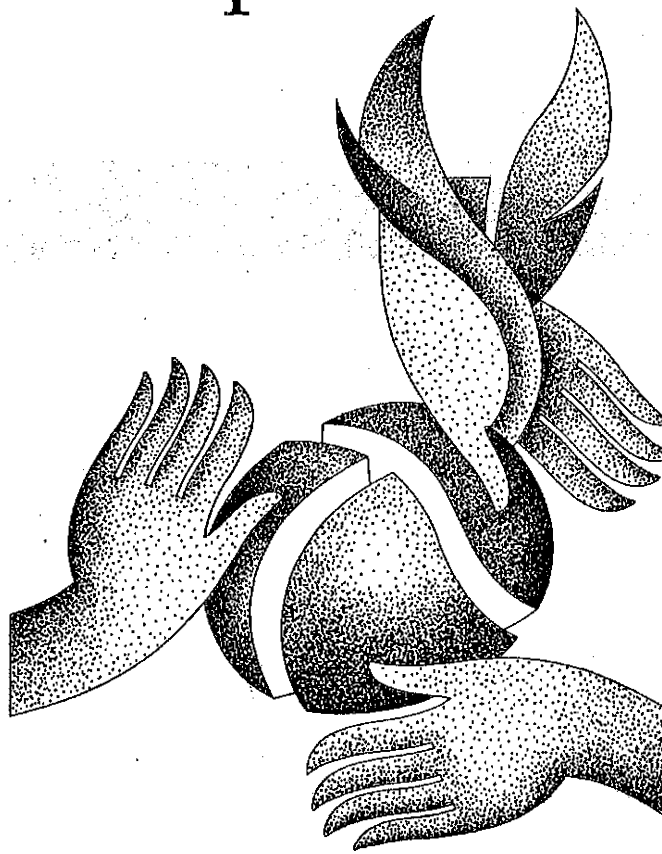
Pacific Social & Human Development Issues



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Introduction

The concept 'social development' has two meanings within the context of this overview. The first involves sectoral issues and policies such as health, education and social welfare. The second relates to the current and future function of the various elements of human societies—such as equal opportunity, distribution of income and services and community participation in development. The latter are multi-faceted and require a broad array of policies.

The format for this overview is unique to the Pacific. There are eleven areas which have been identified as requiring policies at both the regional and national levels. Each is linked to one or more of the three core issues which are the focus of this year's World Summit on Social Development:

- reduction and elimination of widespread poverty,
- productive employment and the reduction of unemployment, and
- social integration.

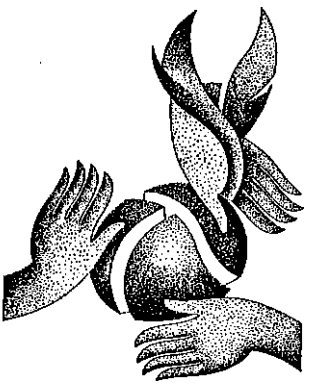
At the end of each section, proposals are identified on which national plans of action and strategies can be based. These proposals are drawn from the following Pacific declarations:

- 33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children,
- Port Vila Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development,

- Noumea Declaration on Women and Sustainable Development,

- Suva Declaration on Sustainable Human Development in the Pacific.

The Pacific Region has often been linked for convenience with Asia and other global sub-groupings by various development agencies. It is unfortunate that such a grouping could lead to misconceptions of the Pacific's development concerns as minor in comparison to those of Asia. As a consequence the special problems associated with the economic and social development of the Pacific and its people are not often fully appreciated. Yet the Pacific Islands have a character quite distinct from other regions.



Part One

The Pacific Social and Human Development Setting

The Pacific Islands—22 sovereign and dependent island states are embraced by 30 million square kilometres of ocean and surrounded by the Pacific Rim countries. As custodians to the largest ocean space on earth, the island nations have for years accentuated their development uniqueness in terms of geographic isolation, comparatively small land size, extensive cultural and ethnic diversity, and extreme vulnerability to both the vagaries of nature and inevitable foreign influences.

Ethnic, cultural and linguistic differences separate Pacific Islanders into three sub-regional groupings: Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The larger, more natural resource-endowed nations of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and Fiji comprise Melanesia, and over 84 per cent of the Pacific's population is found there.

Micronesia consists of the island countries of the central and northern Pacific, and contains around nine per cent of the region's population; the islands in the eastern Pacific are known collectively as Polynesia, and account for the remaining seven per cent.

Although home to only one tenth of a per cent of the world's population, the Pacific Region contains one third of the world's languages, testimony to enormous cultural, social and behavioural complexities.

Despite their sub-regional groupings and differences, all peoples of the Pacific share the view that land is of great importance. With three out of four Pacific Islanders living in rural areas, land issues are both culturally and economically significant. Besides meeting subsistence requirements, land is highly valued by Pacific societies for the socio-religious boundaries it symbolises for family, clan and lineage.

The extended family has traditionally supported Pacific Islanders in both good and bad times. This foundation is weakening in some areas, particularly with rapid urban growth. Individualism, an introduced concept, has inevitably corroded traditional communal interaction and planning, and so threatened the centrality of family and kinship structures much prized by Pacific Islanders. Introduced institutions instead assume responsibility as the provider for the elderly, infirm and disadvantaged, and so fill the gap left by the family as they create it.

Crime and domestic violence have increased; regional data (on health, education, economic activities and the changing composition of the family) foreshadow that poverty is becoming a major issue throughout the region (The Pacific Region Platform for Action, 1994). Health statistics reveal that one child in five in the Pacific is malnourished. Should current trends in population growth continue, the Pacific's population will double in 30 years time to 13.5 million people. Urgent concerns for the environment—and issues like poverty, once considered peripheral—have replaced the focus on economic growth paths pursued by Pacific Island governments in the late nineteen seventies and throughout the eighties.

Social and Human Development Trends

Certain socio-cultural traits are inalienable from Pacific social development. Relatively few individuals perform a variety of social roles. Pacific societies are composed of the non-traditional (public and private) and traditional sectors, with the traditional often involving reliance on a subsistence or semi-subsistence economy. Within this setting, concern for people and their welfare is embedded in the extended family system which is the cornerstone of Pacific cultures and societies.

The single greatest issue facing successful social development is how to reconcile the best of both traditional and modern worlds. Pacific Island economies are economies in transition—from a semi-subsistence lifestyle to an increasing dependence on monetised economies. The subsistence sector has traditionally ensured that all have access to basic needs even during adverse economic or natural events. However, growing populations, dwindling employment opportunities and dissension with introduced economic growth models threaten this protection.

Culture and the Family

Resilient family values and structures characterise traditional Pacific societies. While western influences have forced adaptations in the family unit and living arrangements, the family remains a dominant political, social and economic force. However, the distance that comes with cash economies fragments families, and members are less able and willing to fulfil traditional family and community obligations.

Furthermore, an increasing number of families now live in urban areas. Urbanisation produces nuclear families which are largely reliant on cash economies. Consequently traditional family-based authority breaks down, and, in the absence of guidance, crime, marital problems and pregnancy among unmarried teenage girls result.

In combination with the physical and ideological drift to urban values, population growth has placed considerable strain on both the environment and traditional social systems. In addition, the increase in children undertaking formal education and the demands of cash economies have contributed to an increase in women's workload, complicated by a decline in extended family support with child care.

An increase in crime and domestic violence against women is also of concern throughout the region, particularly in Melanesia. Violence towards children is a growing issue. Also affecting both adults and children is the nutritional problem caused by loss of access to family land for food gardening or production of food crops for sale.

In response to the various factors threatening their existence, Pacific Island families today (particularly Polynesian) have shown an ability to maintain close social and economic contact often across three or four countries. For instance, it is common for Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island, Tuvaluan, Tokelauan and Fijian families to have social and economic networks that may extend between five or six villages in the home country, to two or more neighbouring island nations, or even further afield to the Pacific Rim countries. This wide and diverse economic network has indirectly assisted the maintenance of the traditional family values of sharing and redistribution.

Household size and composition vary across the region. In some areas average household size has declined while in others it has increased markedly, especially in urban areas where increasing poverty forces families to share accommodation or house visiting rural relatives. For example, in urban Fiji, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia, it is common for eight or nine family members to live in one small room.

In spite of changes as a result of economic development, Pacific Island families in general continue to provide a security system for their members and an important source of identity. In most parts of the Pacific, with the exception of the bigger towns, the very young, the elderly, the incapacitated and the unemployed are cared for within the family. Urban-based wage earners provide economic support for those at home and rural family networks, or provide accommodation and support for new family arrivals to town. The danger is that while the ideal of sharing remains integral to Pacific Island cultures, the reality today is that more and more households are attempting to sever extended fam-

ily links to avoid paying the often high cost of subscribing to traditional family values. With improved communication, larger families and more households reliant on wages, the family support system is in crisis. Social problems unknown in the Pacific's past are emerging as traditional family values and structures break down.

'Culture and the Family' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** encourages all sectors to mobilise in empowering families with appropriate knowledge for the development of children.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** recognises that the family must remain the foundation in the pursuit of social and economic development, particularly in the context of local cultures and traditions conflicting with the demands of modernity. It also emphasises that family planning enhances the quality of family life, and should therefore be regarded as compatible with the traditional Pacific family. It also notes with concern the growing pressures experienced by the Pacific Island family, caused by fragmentation due to migration, and the increasing economic and social costs of meeting family and traditional obligations.

- The **Pacific Region Platform for Action**, endorsed by the **Noumea Declaration**, emphasises that customary cultural

values and traditions must be preserved, and that one approach is to research and record both oral traditions and traditional knowledge.

- The **Policy and Strategy Options** paper annexed to the **Suva Declaration** consistently emphasises the importance of protecting the extended family as a source of support.

Economic Trends

Pacific Island economies are small, open and dependent. The economic characteristics of island countries vary largely according to resource endowments, consumption patterns and the institutional capacity to support development programmes. Most have dual economies, where a relatively large subsistence sector exists alongside a monetised sector—the two are not, of course, entirely mutually exclusive, as some people are involved in both forms of production.

Agriculture and fisheries feature prominently in most island development programmes. In this environment, surplus production along with exports meet the cash needs of the people. For some economies, remittances from relatives working in urban centres or overseas also provide required cash. Most island countries maintain substantial trade and current account deficits, which are commonly underwritten by high aid per capita and concessional loan inflows.

The average growth rates of Pacific Island economies have been disappointing, registering a sluggish 2.1 per cent in the period 1980–1990 essentially because traditional primary export prices have declined sharply. Table 1 provides a revealing comparison of economic growth in Pacific Island countries and island countries of the Indian and Africa–Caribbean regions.

In addition, statistics confirm the general decline in focus and expenditure on the main social development areas of health and education (Table 2). In Pacific Island countries, concern with economic growth has unfortunately depreciated the significance of the social sector.

Table 1: Average growth 1980–1990 (per cent per annum)

Figure	Pacific Islands	Indian Ocean	Africa–Caribbean
Population	2.1	1.2	2.1
Real GNP	2.1	3.6	5.8
Per capita real GNP	0.1	2.4	3.7

Source: Pacific Human Development Report, UNDP, 1994

Very few Pacific Island countries have been able to generate adequate increases in wage employment in the past decade. In 1991, it was estimated that for a regional economically active population of 1.8 million, only 370,000 wage earning job opportunities were available. Even though this figure (economically active labour force) included persons who may not have been seeking wage employment or who were at least partially occupied in the subsistence sector, it provides an approximation for policy makers of the size of the underemployment and unemployment situation (Pacific Human Development Report (PHDR), 1994).

Table 2: Public expenditure on health and education in selected Pacific Island countries (% of GNP)

Country	Public expenditure on education as % of GNP		Public expenditure on health as % of GNP	
	1980	Latest	1980	Latest
Cook Islands	9.6	7.2	8.0	6.2
Palau	..	9.1	..	9.3
Niue	23.8	12.4	4.9	10.6
Tonga	3.2	7.2	3.0	3.8
Tuvalu	26.8	15.7	11.5	5.1
Fiji	6.6	5.1	2.8	1.7
Marshall Islands	5.6	12.8	8.6	10.0
Western Samoa	..	5.3	..	3.6
FSM	..	15.3	..	7.6
Kiribati	9.0	7.0	4.4	5.9
Vanuatu	3.7	4.6	3.6	2.4
Solomon Islands	4.4	6.0	3.0	3.7
PNG	2.8	2.6	2.3	1.3

Source: Booth & Muthiah, 1992

Social and cultural issues, as well as perceived economic opportunities, are important in determining who is economically active. In the Pacific, as elsewhere in the developing world, large numbers of people 'work' mainly in subsistence agriculture and fishing, but may occasionally undertake wage employment. Female participation in wage employment is increasing as access to education and work-force skills improve. However, female participation in subsistence production is frequently understated in work-force data (PHDR, 1994).

Pacific Island countries are heavily reliant on bilateral and multilateral non-reciprocal trade relations which allow access of their exports to international markets. These are likely to be adversely affected by trade liberalisation policies (currently being promoted in the Uruguay Round trade talks), with grave consequences for employment and productivity.

'Economic Trends' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** proposes that island nations ensure that children's interests are not seen as peripheral in economic discussions.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** challenges governments to focus economic planning on basic needs such as housing, health, and education. Innovative macro-economic strategies must create new jobs for the expanding labour force, especially as unemployment and related problems such as crime and poverty place heavy demands on public sector services.

- The **Noumea Declaration** reflects the above concerns in relation to empowering and supporting women's participation in mainstream economic development activities, and the **Pacific Region Platform for Action** proposes that countries preserve traditional practices and values where these can tolerate change and promote equality.

- Given the importance of the subsistence and informal sectors of Pacific economies in guarding against the adverse effects of slow economic growth, the **Suva Declaration** encourages countries to identify activities which may also generate income.

Population Trends

The problems accompanying low economic growth in small island economies have been exacerbated by relatively high rates of population growth. In mid-1994, the region's total population stood at about 6.7 million people.

Pacific Island populations are small in the global context. Their demographic variables are very sensitive to international migration, which exerts a strong influence on the structure of many island states. The 9.5 per cent annual growth recorded in recent years in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the decline in the population of Niue of minus 2.4 per cent per annum represent extremes in population growth even by world standards.

Over the past decade, the population of the Pacific island region has been growing steadily at around 2.3 per cent per year. Growth is highest in the Micronesian countries at an average of 3.5 per cent, lowest in Polynesian countries where the mean is 1.5 per cent, with Melanesian countries averaging 2.3 per cent. Moderately high fertility rates and declining mortality drive population growth in Melanesian countries. Slower growth in the Polynesian countries reflects high rates of migration to Pacific Rim countries—principally New Zealand, the United States and Australia—that have prevailed for almost three decades, causing zero growth or an actual decline in the population of some islands. High population growth in Micronesian countries reflects high fertility, and, as some countries adapt their economies after regaining political autonomy from the United States, an influx of foreign workers principally from the Philippines.

Comparing recent demographic developments throughout the region, a much improved mortality situation and higher urban than rural population growth emerge as two key population developments during the 1990s affecting all Pacific Island countries. High teenage pregnancy and crude birth rates in Micronesia, international migration patterns in Polynesia, and high maternal mortality rates in Melanesia continue to feature as prominent subregional population issues.

Should the current trends continue, the Pacific Islands' populations will double in 30 years time from their present 6.7 million inhabitants to around 13.5 million people, with the fastest growth occurring in towns and cities across the Pacific.

Given the magnitude of population developments and their social, economic and political implications in a rather stagnant economic environment, the joint consideration of population and development must become an urgent area of public policy reform for Pacific Island governments (Pacific Island Populations, 1994).

'Population Trends' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** recommends that all Pacific governments act to reduce maternal mortality rates by 1995.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** acknowledges that production, consumption and trade patterns are changing, with obvious

implications for development. It emphasises that development depends on enhancement of the roles and status of women, attention to family planning programmes and population dynamics and integrating population policies and programmes into national development efforts.

- The **Suva and Noumea Declarations** support and reaffirm the **Port Vila Declaration**'s call to establish realistic population targets for the following issues: environment, migration, fertility and reproductive health, morbidity and mortality and other sectoral issues mentioned above.

- The **Pacific Region Platform for Action**, endorsed by the **Noumea Declaration**, stipulates the specific goal of reducing regional fertility rates by one half by the year 2000.

The Environment and Natural Disasters

The economies and the environments of the island countries are extremely fragile. They are at risk not only in relation to the global economy but also because of their vulnerability to natural disasters. Global warming and sea-level rise are the most serious environmental threats to the region.

The Pacific is often exposed to devastating natural disasters, primarily in the form of catastrophic cyclones, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Some islands are also susceptible to landslides, extended droughts and extensive floods. For island countries that are affected by these hazards, the economic, social and environmental consequences can be severe and long term.

The rural–urban drift throughout the Pacific outstrips even population growth, and brings with it inevitable environmental consequences. In the case of small island countries such as Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, the proportion of urban population is particularly significant not only because of the limited land areas involved but also because of the pressure on the environment. In such small and fragile ecosystems, a major concern is the environmental degradation which accompanies urban growth. Pacific countries face similar physical problems to the majority of developing countries where around 35 per cent of the population lack access to adequate sanitation, and infrastructure and services are insufficient.

The growth of urban populations has serious environmental and health implications as the infrastructure of towns is often run down and incapable of coping with increased populations. Squatter settlements on the periphery of towns also cause health and environmental problems.

'The Environment and Natural Disasters' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** emphasises implicitly that as the inheritors of the environment, children should provide further motivation for environmental protection.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** supports the implementation of policies that will minimise severe ecological damage and contingent health and welfare problems, and reminds the international community of their commitment to addressing the possible economic and social impacts of sea-level rise on Pacific islands. Regarding natural disasters, it recommends better management of the current hazards and commitment to developing disaster mitigation measures, including better land use regulation and community-preparedness arrangements.

- The **Pacific Women's Platform for Action**, endorsed by the **Noumea Declaration**, emphasises the negative environmental effects of military exercises, mining activities, and the importance of waste recycling and alternative energy sources such as solar and wind-generated energy.

- The **Suva Declaration** suggests greater use of environmental impact analysis in planning and policy formulation, and encouragement of measures that place priority on the long-term health of island environments.

Health

Many Pacific Islanders cannot access simple, affordable health services. In particular, those living in isolated rural communities, outer islands and atolls suffer from poor environmental health conditions and insufficient nutrition. With over 80 per cent of the Pacific island population in rural areas, almost two thirds of rural families have to cope without clean water, and three out of four families do not have access to adequate sanitation. Nearly 800,000 Pacific children under the age of five are malnourished.

The four worst diseases over the past five years have been: acute respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases and conjunctivitis. The public health importance of each of these varies considerably between countries. The first three represent major causes of death, particularly among children. However, malaria affects only three out of 22 Pacific island countries and territories—Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The diseases are closely related in varying degrees to social and environmental factors such as poor education and housing, lack of safe water and sanitation, malnutrition and overcrowding which also favour many other diseases.

Ongoing public health initiatives however continue to introduce infectious disease prevention and treatment programmes, which have had some effect in improving a Pacific Islander's average life expectancy at birth. Almost all one-year old children in the region are now immunised. Access to oral rehydration salts is now nearly universal in the Pacific, with 40–70 per cent of children's diarrhoea correctly treated. Similarly, acute respiratory infection programmes are established in most countries with 60–100 per cent of the cases successfully treated. Community groups

and non-government organisations are vital for the success of these programmes.

On the other hand, lifestyle diseases have reached epidemic levels in recent years and are now the leading causes of death in most Pacific island countries. A lifestyle of little physical exercise combined with high alcohol and tobacco consumption and poor nutrition increases the risk of disease.

Many Pacific Island countries have drastically reduced health care expenditure in recent years as a result of economic stagnation and fiscal crises. A World Bank study (Health Care Financing in the Pacific, 1993) reports that per capita health care expenditure has dropped an average of 74 per cent from 1986 to 1990 in seven countries. During the same period, the health share of total government expenditures has fallen from 14 to 11 per cent. The budget cuts have primarily affected primary health care programmes in rural and preventive health services.

In general, an orientation to hospital-based care absorbs more than half of the health budget, most of the available physicians and two thirds of the overall health staff. Per capita costs for the provision of health services are relatively high because of low population densities, scattered islands and medical referrals to metropolitan countries. Retention of health staff is difficult because of low salaries and the lack of new, qualified graduates trained in primary health care and programme management.

'Health' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** challenges countries to eliminate

Vitamin A deficiency, reduce malnutrition by one-fifth from 1990 levels and achieve the target of 80 per cent use of oral rehydration therapy in treatment of diarrhoeal dehydration, by 1995.

- From the demographic perspective, the **Port Vila Declaration** reconfirms the government commitments made at the Amsterdam Forum and the World Summit for Children to reduce maternal, infant and early childhood mortality rates by the year 2000. The **Port Vila and Suva Declarations** observe that investment in primary health care can generate widespread improvements in both infant and adult health. Pacific Island countries will need to concentrate public resources on primary health care services, and emphasise awareness raising, prevention and health education. With AIDS an emerging Pacific issue, safe sexual practices should be promoted.

- The **Pacific Platform for Action**, endorsed by the **Noumea Declaration**, proposes an emphasis on primary health care, and affordable services for both rural and urban women.

- The **Policies and Strategy Options** paper annexed to the **Suva Declaration** additionally points out that traditional methods of healing should be integrated with health services at the community level.

The Phenomenon of AIDS

The first known case of AIDS in the Pacific was identified in 1982. Since then, the cumulative number of officially reported AIDS cases has increased to 177, with 557 cases of HIV infection (this figure includes the AIDS cases). Thirteen of the twenty-two Pacific Island countries and territories report HIV infection (Table 3). While the total number of reported cases appears low in comparison to those reported in Asia or Africa, it is important to remember that, with the exception of Papua New Guinea and Fiji (with populations of approximately 4 million and 750,000 respectively) the island populations are quite small—the other countries all have total populations of less than 300,000.

Factors which support the increased spread of HIV infection in the region include:

- the high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, which suggests that existing sexual behaviours and social conditions are likely to encourage the rapid spread of HIV;

- increased international travel and migration within and outside the region suggest frequent exposure to the HIV threat;

- urbanisation and the attraction of cash earnings continue to erode traditional customs and mores;

- social, cultural and religious influences remain strong barriers against the open discussion of sex;

- the use of alcohol and drugs is on the increase, particularly among the youth when sexual activity is at its peak;

- because of limited economic opportunities for many young people, prostitution is on the rise.

With small total populations and fragile economies, even relatively low levels of HIV infection can have a devastating impact on the social and economic structures of Pacific Island countries.

Table 3: HIV infection–AIDS: Situation update in the Pacific Island countries, by sub-region, as at 1 July 1994

Sub-region	HIV infection* No. of reported cases	AIDS No. of reported cases
Polynesia	143	42
Micronesia	86	34
Melanesia	328	101

*AIDS cases included. Source: PIASPP , South Pacific Commission, 1994

'The Phenomenon of AIDS' proposals:

- The **Port Vila Declaration** emphasises that to achieve mortality reduction targets, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases should be tackled with a preventative approach.

- The **Pacific Region Platform for Action,** endorsed by the **Noumea Declaration,** suggests the prevention of AIDS in the Pacific Region through the provision of universally-available sex education.

Education

The Pacific Region has made significant progress for several decades in extending basic education and literacy to most sections of societies. However, progress has been slower than anticipated in some island countries, particularly those among the Melanesian group.

The quality of education in the Pacific has been debated frequently in recent years. While there is little consensus on how to apply and define quality standards appropriate to the region, there is a widespread belief that many school leavers are inadequately prepared to undertake further education and training, to perform effectively in the labour force or to participate successfully in the subsistence sector.

The causes of poor education are consistent with those in other developing countries. Untrained and inadequately trained teachers, students starved of instructional materials and poor facilities all play a part. The effect of untrained teachers has dominated the discussion of quality in many countries, but little attention seems to have been paid to the more serious low standard of other inputs into the teaching process.

Financing of education varies considerably across the region (see Table 2), and reflects the priority given by island countries to human resource development. However, for the purposes of economic growth, it is important to recognise that high quality of education does not guarantee economic growth. A more comprehensive reform of economic structures and policies is required. Indeed, a rapid expansion in education that is not relevant, in the absence of other fundamental reforms, will bring with it high

social costs as expectations rise but are not met, and traditional cultural ties weaken. Improving the quality and relevance of education is therefore the basis of sustainable human development (PHDR, 1994).

'Education' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** notes that 40 per cent of Pacific children do not receive a full primary education, and only 20 per cent complete secondary school. It encourages all sectors to address this problem.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** supports the position of the **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** in reminding governments of their obligation to continue to provide essential primary education for children. The education system of Pacific island countries is unable to teach some of the skills needed for economic growth, while formal employment opportunities are insufficient to meet graduates of the current system.

- The **Pacific Region Platform for Action** focuses on the need to increase female participation in maths- and science-related subjects, and address the disproportionate amount of female illiteracy.

- The **Suva Declaration** recommends that countries allocate more funds to the primary and secondary levels, and to informal education; increase the access to education of girls and children from disadvantaged families; and include cultural, ethical and social issues that are unique to Pacific Islanders.

Women

Pacific women are primarily responsible for three essential roles: production, reproduction and community management. Their biological role includes the daily nurturing of their children, who are obviously the societies' future work force. Community management includes the perpetuation of social and cultural systems.

The move to a global economy and the importance of production for profit as a source of value have forced Pacific societies to reorganise their social structures to reflect the importance of monetisation. The greatest effect this has had on a Pacific woman is to put more burden into her 'double day', and consequently marginalise her societal role.

The situation of Pacific women is similar to that of women in other developing regions: their participation in education is less than that of males at all levels, they are minorities in the professions and technical fields and are under-represented in national politics. Nonetheless, slow, but positive gains are being made by women across these three fields. An obstacle to women's progress are the region's extremely high fertility rates, which also reduce the quality of health services available to all and put pressure on food and fundamental social services.

Governments throughout the region recognise the central role of women in the development process, and acknowledge that development strategies and population programmes must be founded on fundamental improvements in the status of women. Critical women's issues that will require national and regional attention are:

- health;
- education and training;
- economic empowerment;
- agriculture and fishing;
- legal, human and indigenous people's rights;
- shared decision making;
- environment;
- culture and the family;
- mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;
- violence;
- peace and justice;
- poverty.

That these issues are so interrelated encourages a multi-sectoral approach (Pacific Platform for Action, 1994).

Measures to address each issue will require: the development of databases on women's participation across all sectors, including particularly the disaggregation of currently available data and gender-oriented data in all development planning, and a review of the social as well as structural factors that affect women.

'Women' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** recommends making all hospitals 'baby-friendly', and achieving the goal of equal opportunities in education for 80 per cent of school-aged children.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** explicitly emphasises that sustainable human development depends on genuine gender equality and equal participation in all development activities, particularly education and training, employment and health care. It also acknowledges that population policies and programmes must empower women, eliminate gender bias, and ensure that women are fully integrated in the development process as equal partners in policy making, planning and programme implementation.

- As noted in the **Noumea Declaration**, improving the status of women can ensure the success of many vital policies affecting families and local communities. The **Pacific Region Plan of Action** endorsed by the **Noumea Declaration** emphasises the unique identity of Pacific women, and the goals of equality, development and peace.

- The **Suva Declaration** encourages Pacific Nations to ratify the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and prepare schemes to correct gender bias.

Youth

Very young populations distinguish Pacific island countries and territories demographically. The youth therefore make up a sizeable amount of the economically active population. As an important national resource, training of young people and other forms of human resource development must be regarded as investment, not luxury.

Demographers predict a further proportionate increase in the youthful population. The slow economic growth rates island nations experience, combined with the large 'dropout' rates from primary and secondary schools, a lack of vocational facilities and continuing urban drift for disillusioned rural youth, suggest an urgent need to reconsider the changes occurring in traditional lifestyles, and to establish supportive national policy frameworks to cater for the changes. Some problems include:

- a growing number of young people are not sufficiently equipped with appropriate life and work skills;
- high unemployment rates among the youth;
- increase in crimes committed by the youth and a corresponding high ratio of young inmates.

'Youth' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** calls on community organisations to empower families with knowledge about youth issues.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** emphasises that vulnerable groups such as the youth of the Pacific must be protected by continued adequate support for primary health care and education.

- The **Pacific Region Platform for Action** focuses on the importance of extended family for the youth and ensuring that the family nurtures rather than abuses.

- The **Suva Declaration** specifies that skills training and social and economic infrastructural support enable productive action by young people in Pacific economies. Governments should review market and pricing support to promote entrepeneurship. The **Policies and Strategy Options** paper also regards high youth mortality caused by suicides and motor accidents as a serious issue.

Poverty

Poverty is an emerging issue in a number of Pacific Island countries. Urbanisation and the shift to a monetary economy are part of the problem, particularly in resource-poor island countries, with the threat to viable subsistence lifestyles and the increasing depletion of natural resources through unchecked exploitation. This phenomenon should be understood and addressed against the background of traditional lifestyles and economic change.

Current human development indicators portray the emergence of absolute poverty as opposed to relative poverty. Absolute poverty relates to levels of existence marked by deprivation of the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing and essential services such as clean water, sanitation, health care and education. Although not widespread throughout the region, the fact that such deprivation now exists in some of the island countries demands national and regional attention.

Consistent with the development priorities of Pacific Island countries is the importance of economic growth and especially the equitable distribution of economic and development benefits. But economic growth by itself cannot ensure that poverty will be reduced or eradicated.

Therefore special consideration and commitment must be accorded to social policies on poverty within the overall framework of development planning at all levels.

'Poverty' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** expresses concern about the deterioration of the quality of life for children in the region and proposes nine specific goals for Pacific Island governments to achieve by 1995.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** suggests political commitment and support to policies that will abate population concerns and alleviate growing poverty issues.

- The **Pacific Region Platform for Action** emphasises the need to promote means to address the root causes of growing poverty in the Pacific, particularly in relation to female-headed households.

- The **Suva Declaration** encourages programme support for disadvantaged population groups who have become marginalised: the elderly, disabled and destitute; victims of drug abuse and broken homes; rural seasonal farm workers; landless workers; female-headed households (both in urban slums and rural areas); squatters; migrant workers; and school dropouts. The first step is to provide adequate social services and economic infrastructure, and empower people with information and skills so that they have better access to development opportunities.

Peace and Justice

In the Pacific, good governance is understood broadly as the effective management of a country's social and economic resources in a manner that is open, accountable and equitable.

The transparency of government is a pre-condition to ensuring peace and stability in the region. Popular participation in the election of government, and people's access to the various economic, political and social institutions that decide their way of life also remain fundamental to ensuring a peaceful environment and a just society.

Recognising that there exist in the Pacific Region cases of indigenous people's rights being denied, international, regional and national people's movements and non-government organisations are working together to address prominent concerns.

The intellectual property rights of indigenous populations have in the past been taken for granted, with the adverse effect of ignoring the true custodians of natural resources and knowledge.

Indigenous knowledge and cultural values and rights can only be protected when legitimate representatives of indigenous people are full and active participants in the development planning and implementation process. Furthermore, international and regional development agencies and governments must commit resources to education, training and relevant services for indigenous communities to develop their capacities to achieve their own sustainable development.

'Peace and Justice' proposals:

- The **33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children** recommends that all Pacific Island countries ratify the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- The **Port Vila Declaration** affirms the importance of indigenous peoples' perspectives and their rights to manage development resources.

- The **Pacific Platform for Action,** endorsed by the **Noumea Declaration** emphasises the need to ensure that the identity and rights of indigenous people are upheld in the development process.

- The **Suva Declaration** recognises the importance of local governance and community participation as a means to strengthen and sustain development, and calls on governments to integrate tradition along with their development planning.

Part Two

An Enabling Environment

Social development strategies will succeed given the enabling conditions for implementation to occur. The small size, dispersion, geographical isolation and susceptibility to climatic conditions, external markets, commodity prices and trade arrangements of Pacific Island countries, limit their ability to expand opportunities for social development and economic growth.

In the Pacific Region, economic growth, social development and political commitment are interdependent.

Good governance, political accountability and commitment to addressing inequalities through appropriate policies and strategies are prerequisites for social development. In such an environment, countries can constantly review macro-economic policies to ensure that people's quality of life improves through strategies to:

- adjust and respond effectively to changes in external trade;
- adopt appropriate social policies to address the adverse effects of structural adjustments; and
- develop cost-effective and innovative measures to strengthen employment and livelihood opportunities in the formal, subsistence and informal sectors.

Governments play a major role in providing enabling conditions, such as:

- basic infrastructure, including roads, transportation, and communication, which are the framework on which economic growth can be built;

- access to basic services, such as health, education and skills training;

- water, sanitation, shelter and family planning, which improve people's quality of life; and

- access to credit, opportunities for self-employment and advances in technology, which also assist community development in the Pacific Region.

However, social development is not the sole responsibility of governments. Apart from NGOs, community leaders, church groups and other service providers, and the people themselves, should be encouraged by governments. Greater complementarity of roles should be strived for.

The challenges that face Pacific Island countries in meeting their social development objectives are complex. This document presents various proposals—the list is by no means exhaustive—from related regionally approved declarations and resolutions which appear as Annexes I through IV. From these, Pacific Island countries might devise strategies, to address the three key themes of the World Summit on Social Development, namely: the reduction and elimination of widespread poverty, social integration, and productive employment and the reduction of unemployment.

Institutional Arrangements for Implementation

National Level

The primacy of action at the national level in social and human development activities cannot be over-emphasised, while nations must recognise the significant contributions of regional collaboration and international cooperation.

Governments, in close association with all other players on the national scene, will need to devise specific policies, plans and programmes producing an integrated approach to social development. The formulation of a national programme of action for social development should be accorded high priority in each Pacific Island country.

In order to effectively address social and human development, the following framework needs to be implemented:

- an appropriate national programme of action for social development;
- restructuring of government to officially introduce, monitor and evaluate social and human development strategies.
- strengthening of community groups and NGOs to implement self-help community initiatives.

Regional Level

Regional support and cooperation to produce and implement national programmes of action can greatly strengthen the efforts of Pacific Island countries. A united front fosters confidence.

All regional and international development agencies in the Pacific should cooperate to provide technical support, requiring:

- greater cooperation and integrated action by regional and international organisation to address social development concerns; and

- encouragement of the Regional Commission of the United Nations (ESCAP) to work closely with the relevant Pacific Island organisations to avoid duplication of social and human development programme activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

National social development information systems, and in particular the findings of quality-of-life surveys and human indicator indexes, should form the basis for the continuous monitoring and periodic evaluation of the progress of national action programmes.

It will be necessary to integrate statistics and information on social and human development into the work of relevant government ministries. National statistical offices will have to be further strengthened to ensure prompt monitoring, analysis and reporting of national progress based on development indicators. It is, therefore, recommended that Pacific island countries consider the following possible actions:

- Develop indicators and set up a monitoring system based on data generated systematically by government departments, NGOs and other agencies as part of their normal functions;

- Train statisticians and planners on the collection, analysis, reporting (storing and retrieval) of data related to social and human development;

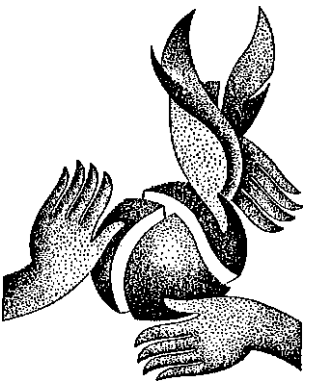
- Develop a tool to measure the impact of social and human development programmes and projects;

- Create among policy makers and planners a demand for social and human development statistics;

- Develop programmes to measure the impact of social and human development interventions on households;

- Encourage the use of participatory action research in which communities themselves participate in surveys on their circumstances and attitudes.

(Suva Declaration on Sustainable Human Development in the Pacific, 1994, Annex)



Annex:

Related Declarations & Resolutions

The 33rd South Pacific Conference Resolution on the State of Pacific Children

The Conference:

Recalling the 1990 Declaration of the World Summit for Children requesting governments to prepare National Programmes of Action for the survival, development and protection of children; the endorsement of the Declaration by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 45/217 of December 1990; and the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child by 151 countries to date;

Acknowledging the 1991 Pacific Regional Strategy Conference for Children; the 1992 endorsement of the First Call for Children by the leaders of the South Pacific Forum and the establishment of a policy framework for children's issues; and the recommendations by the 1993 South Pacific Commission Regional Conference of Heads of Health Services;

Noting that:

- 19,000 children under five die every year in the Pacific;
- 40% of Pacific children fail to obtain a basic primary education;
- Only 20% complete secondary education;
- 20% of children under five are underweight;
- Maternal mortality rate (average) in the Pacific is close to twice the global average;

Recognising that 1994 is the Year of the Family and expressing concern about the deterioration of the quality of life for children in the region;Expressing

concern that a significant number of SPC proposed projects are short of funding;

Noting that the majority of SPC countries are yet to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

Emphasising that the International Convention on the Rights of the Child supports the authority of the family for the upbringing and protection of children against child abuse;

(a) Recommended that all governments take action to achieve the following goals by 1995:

- Maintenance of immunisation coverage of all antigens by at least 90%;
- Virtual elimination of Vitamin A deficiency;
- Reduction of 1990 levels of malnutrition by one fifth or more;
- Universal iodization of salt;
- Achievement of 80% use of Oral Rehydration Therapy in treatment of diarrhoeal dehydration;
- Making all hospitals and maternity centres baby friendly by promoting breastfeeding and rooming-in;
- Reduction of maternal mortality rates;
- Provision of education opportunities for 80% of school-aged children and reduction of disparities between boys and girls;
- Ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(b) Requested governments to prepare National Programmes of Action for the survival, development and protection of children within the framework of their National Development Plans and to adopt the principle of First Call for Children as outlined in the document *First Call for Pacific Children: An Agenda for Action.*

(c) Encouraged mobilisation of all sectorse.g. media, education, women's groups, community organisations and political entitiesin empowering families with appropriate knowledge for the survival, development and protection of children;

(d) Urged the heads of government to provide personal leadership in advocating and ensuring that children are given priority in National Development agendas;

(e) Suggested that appropriate successful experiences in the region be documented on a national basis and the factors contributing to their success be identified for regional sharing of experience;

(f) Invited UNICEF to consider upgrading its efforts in the Pacific to cater for the needs of its Pacific Island members;

(g) Urged that both public and private sectors, non-governmental organisations, donors, and UN agencies mobilise resources and engage in joint efforts in addressing the needs of children;

(h) Directed the SPC Secretariat to examine its existing programmes in the youth, women, health, education and agriculture sectors with a view to including appropriate efforts to address the needs of Pacific children;

(i) Requested that members report to the Thirty-fourth South Pacific Conference (1994) on the status of the goals and the development of the National Programmes of Action.

Port Vila Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development

Introduction

Following the Pacific Islands Leaders Conference in Tahiti in June 1993 and in accordance with the mandate given by the Twenty Fourth South Pacific Forum in Nauru in August 1993, Ministers and representatives of Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa met in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 9 to 10 September 1993 to identify key population and development issues of concern to the region and, on the basis of this, formulated policy positions which Pacific participants can then use during preparations for, at, and in the follow-up to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Preamble

We, the Ministers and representatives at this Meeting on Population and Sustainable Development,

Reviewing the progress made by Governments of the Pacific region in implementing the recommendations and achieving the goals of the World Population Plan of Action,

Addressing ourselves to the theme of the Meeting, 'Population and Sustainable Development',

Emphasising the uniqueness of our region as reflected in:

- the central role of custom and tradition;
- the strong affinity of our people with the land;
- our vulnerability to natural disasters;
- the unique challenges we face as a consequence of our history and geography including widespread dispersal across the largest ocean in the world,

Acknowledging the efforts being made by countries and territories of the Pacific region to promote social and economic development, and the commitment and leadership they have shown in the formulation and implementation of programmes to address population issues and problems,

Recognising the extensive efforts being made at the regional and international level to ensure continued interest and understanding among policy-makers, planners, administrators, and those affected by their decisions, in the area of population and development,

Noting in particular the objectives of the World Population Plan of Action, the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resource Development and Agenda 21,

Identifying the following key population and sustainable development issues:

- sustained economic growth
- provision of and improvements in the delivery of adequate social services, infrastructure support and jobs to meet the needs of a growing and youthful population
- integrated national development plans and policies that take social and cultural factors into account
- rural and outer island development

- changing patterns of production, consumption and trade and their implications for development
- external assistance that supports national development
- management and conservation of resources
- population and environment linkages
- improved research, analysis and information on population issues to promote better understanding of population trends and developments
- linkages between the enhancement of the role and status of women, family planning programmes and population dynamics
- integrated population policies and programmes,

Further recognising the invaluable contributions of donor countries, multilateral agencies and non-governmental organisations in the provision of technical and financial assistance for population programmes in the Pacific Region,

Mindful that, despite the diversities and differences in our social, economic and political conditions as well as our cultural and religious values, the countries and territories of the Pacific share certain common concerns in regard to population and development,

Noting the importance of peace and stability in achieving social and economic development goals,

Mindful also of the vital importance of a clear, and consistent level of political support and sustained commitment to the effective implementation of population and development policies and programmes,

Reaffirming the need for closer cooperation and collaboration amongst the countries and territories of the Pacific Region, regional and international organisations, non-governmental organisations and governments in their ef-

forts to address and solve the problems of absolute or relative poverty where it exists, health and nutrition, population and the environment and to accelerate the social and economic well being of their people,
Adopt the Port Vila Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development as our statement of commitment towards addressing the issues of population and sustainable development, and as a regional contribution to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and its preparations.

Principles

The following principles are considered to be appropriate in the Pacific Region in terms of population and sustainable development.

(a) Sustainable development, conservation and preservation of the environment are essential for human beings to enjoy a productive and healthy life.

(b) The right to development entails meeting the needs of present generations in a sustainable manner without compromising the needs of future generations.

(c) Population and development issues and problems differ from country to country and solutions to these must depend on and be found within the context of the specific social, cultural and economic priorities and needs of each country and territory.

(d) The process of the formulation and implementation of population and development programmes, policies and development plans are the absolute right and responsibility of each country and territory. To promote a higher quality of life for all people, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption should be substantially reduced through appropriate policies. External technical and financial assistance may be required to complement such efforts.

(e) Access to safe and effective family planning services is a basic human right. Informed choice and access to a range of affordable family planning methods

and services must be assured for all; coercion must play no part in population policies and programmes.

(f) Population and sustainable development programmes, to be effective and successful, must be sensitive to local values, involve male and female decision makers at all levels, and ensure the full participation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and, where appropriate, the private sector.

(g) Population and sustainable development programmes, to be successful, need to fully respect and protect the rights of individuals and accordingly should ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, age, disability, social class and religion.

(h) Efforts to address development and population related problems are the primary responsibility of each country and territory; external technical and financial assistance may be required to complement such efforts.

(i) Population and development issues and problems are interrelated; there is a need to integrate population issues into mainstream economic development planning systems.

The Pacific context

The Pacific region is characterised by small land masses dispersed over vast areas of the world's largest ocean with a combined Exclusive Economic Zone three times larger than the United States of America or China but with a land area accounting for less than 2% of that total.

As with many other island developing countries and territories, development is frequently constrained by small domestic markets, narrow resource and production bases, high unit costs of infrastructure, heavy dependence on external aid and remittances and vulnerability to external economic shocks and natural disasters.

The region is geographically, ecologically and socio-culturally diverse. How-

ever, all countries and territories share a strong affinity with and dependence on land and ocean resources for their livelihood, resources which are coming under increasing pressure due to continuing high population growth, expanding economic activity and natural disasters.
The consequences of the complex relationship between population, development, social and cultural factors and the environment are evident: urban drift, scarcity of land, deterioration of the environment, unemployment, deterioration in law and order, lack of educational opportunities, inadequate health facilities and services, teenage pregnancy, diseases caused by changes in dietary patterns and lifestyles, the erosion of traditional culture and kinship systems and the increasing incidence of sexually transmitted diseases.

To effectively manage the complex relationship between population, development and the environment in the Pacific, particular attention needs to be focussed on, land availability, food security, employment generation, access to natural resources, and reproductive rights and responsibilities. It is also necessary to take into account the many strengths which our societies and cultures bring to population and sustainable development challenges. In addressing these issues the active co-operation and participation of all sectors of our communities will be crucial.

The interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development

(a) The relationship between population, development and environment

We recognise that at both the national and regional levels population issues must be integrated into the formulation and implementation of all policies and programmes relating to economic and social development and the environment. To that end, we encourage governments to strengthen existing institutional machineries; and consider the establishment or identification of a Ministry or other unit responsible for population and planning, a planning advisory body to play an advocacy role and appropriate and effective macroeconomic planning framework.

In this regard we note that such integration must be comprehensive in its coverage and be a component of annual, strategic and longer term planning.

We also recognise that such efforts depend for their success on continued political commitment.

(b) **Population and economic development**

In recognition that the region's population growth rate, exceeding 2% per annum, continues to outpace economic growth in many Pacific countries, we reaffirm the need for population growth and sustainable economic development to be in balance; inadequate economic growth cannot, in the face of growing population, provide the necessary quality of life for the peoples of the region.

In view of the situation in many Pacific island countries and territories, it is essential for both short and long term population issues to be addressed and integrated into the planning processes. It is also important for economic planning to address basic needs of housing, health, education and quality of life.

(c) **Population and environment**

Environmental change brought about by increased populations, technological change and economic activities have direct consequences on the quality of life for people, including their culture and traditions.

These interactions are particularly immediate in the Pacific islands and the critical issue is not just how many people can live in a place but also

- the economic base supporting the technologies they employ;
- the extent to which their lifestyles and economic practices consume resources, generate wastes, and are at odds with good environmental management; and
- the degree to which access to resources is unequal.

Recalling the South Pacific Forum's continuing concerns about a wide range of environmental issues, including nuclear testing and the ocean dumping of radioactive and other wastes, we support the implementation of policies that will minimise severe ecological damage and its health and welfare repercussions. This requires:

- better knowledge of the relationships between population, culture and environment in the region;
- support to develop the institutional capacity in the region to conduct the necessary research and policy analysis;
- administrative systems which recognise and assist inter-sectoral planning;
- the inclusion of projected demographic trends and imputed consumption patterns in planning;
- political commitment to be given to policies that will slow population growth, rationalise population distribution, alleviate poverty, reduce environmentally dangerous production and consumption, and foster the use of appropriate technologies.

We recognise that changes to the global climate would be of fundamental importance to the peoples, countries and territories of the Pacific Island region. The causes of such changes have their origins far from our region and are beyond the control of our countries and territories. We reiterate, however, our major concern that the repercussions of global climate change and resultant sea level rise will involve, at an early stage, serious economic and social consequences not only for the small low lying islands of the region but also for the coastal zones of other Pacific islands.

We accordingly call on the international community to give full recognition to these vital concerns including the possibility of their total inundation and to take the necessary actions and to commit itself to the alleviation of possible economic and social impacts of sea level rise on the islands of our region.

We recognise also other aspects of climate change which can be expected to have major significance for the sustainable economic development of countries and territories of our region, including high altitude areas, and the need for alleviation of possible economic and social impact to be considered by the international community.

We note that the present high vulnerability of Pacific Island populations to natural disasters is likely to further increase as a consequence of climate and technological change and recommend that

- governments promote better management of the current hazards and evaluate development projects for their impact on the environment and their susceptibility to natural hazards; and

- commitment be given to developing disaster mitigation measures, including better land use regulation and community preparedness arrangements.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

Recalling the various plans of action and conventions for the full, equal and beneficial integration of women in all development activities, we recognise

- the central role of Pacific women in the development process both as active participants and as beneficiaries;

- women's significant contribution to national development despite the continued existence of barriers to their full participation;

- the fundamental links between the achievement of sustainable development, population change and improvements in the status of women and the quality of family life; and

- the need to remove all forms of legal discrimination against women and to ratify the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

We note the joint roles and responsibilities of men and women in reproduction and recommend that:

- population issues cannot be separated from the issue of improving the social, economic, political and legal status of Pacific women;

- for sustainable development to occur there must be genuine gender equality and equal access to and participation in all development activities, particularly education and training, employment and health care;

- population policies and programmes must involve measures to empower women, eliminate gender bias, ensure that women are fully integrated in the development process as equal partners in policy making, planning and programme implementation, and be focussed on ensuring equal access to education and employment; and

- specific programmes which provide access to financial resources and of family planning services be ensured.

We recommend that governments assess the impact of macro-economic policies, particularly the impact of structural adjustment policies on potentially vulnerable groups, among which women are over represented.

Population Growth and Structure

(a) Diversity of fertility, mortality and population growth rates

In mid-1993 the population of Pacific Island developing countries is estimated to be approximately 6.3 million. Within the region, whose annual growth rate at 2.3% is in the higher range by world standards, countries vary between a temporary high of 9.5% in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and 4.2% in the Marshall Islands to negative growth in Niue. Among the countries approximating the regional rate are Papua New Guinea, Palau and French Polynesia. Generally, mortality is declining, but by general developing country standards life expectancy still ranges from levels that are rela-

tively low to relatively high. While fertility rates are declining in most countries and territories they are still higher than in some other developing countries. Additionally, most Polynesian and some Micronesian countries and territories have experienced heavy out-migration to Pacific Rim neighbours. Consequently, while projected rate of natural increase are high across the region, in Polynesia and some parts of Micronesia this has been counter balanced by emigration. However, certain areas in Micronesia have experienced substantial population growth as a result of inward migration.

(b) **Children, Youth and the Aged**

Within the context of population and sustainable development the rapidly increasing numbers at childhood, adolescence and young working ages are a major challenge. For at least the next few decades, this feature of population structure will give rise to heavy demands on the labour market and on all social services, diverting scarce financial resources from capital investment to current expenditure. While Pacific countries and territories are proportionately 'young' by international standards, older age groups within all Pacific countries are growing rapidly. We recognise that these trends will have long term implications which we must commit ourselves to addressing now. Innovative and effective macro-economic strategies will therefore have to be introduced to create new jobs for the expanding labour force, especially as unemployment, and related problems, such as crime and poverty will place heavy demands on public sector services.

We must be particularly aware of the needs of those in older age groups who have contributed so much to our communities and who must be assured of security and dignity in their later years.

In recognition of these and other challenges associated with population growth and structure, we acknowledge the particular needs and requirements of such exposed and vulnerable groups as children, youth, the aged, and the disabled. In this regard we reaffirm the 1992 South Pacific Forum's statement on the 'State of Pacific Children' which recognised the responsibility we have to ensure that children are able to grow and develop to their full potential, as well as to be supportive of families and communities in their efforts to nurture and

guide children. We recognise that especially during periods of economic austerity, our governments and administrations will need to protect children's well-being by continued adequate support for essential health and educational services for children, in particular, primary health care and education.

We also welcome the decision of the South Pacific Conference to have as its 1993 Conference theme, 'Pacific Children'.

(c) **Indigenous People**

We welcome the opportunity to affirm the importance of the perspective of indigenous people to our region during this the International Year for Indigenous People. We recall and affirm the commitments made at meetings of the South Pacific Forum, most recently the twenty-fourth meeting held in Nauru in August 1993, and welcome the proposed convening of a regional conference on indigenous people's concerns.

The family, its role and composition

We acknowledge the centrality of the Pacific Island family in the pursuit of material and non-material well-being. In the context of the continuing salience of tradition, the demands of modernity, the importance of the subsistence sector, and the composition of our populations, it is the Pacific Island family which sits at the nexus of tradition and modernity, and makes a vital contribution to socio-economic development and to personal well-being. Given the large number of children and the growing number of older persons, this crucial role is all the more important because the family is a mechanism by which we seek to achieve inter-generational equity.

We recognise that family planning is beneficial to the whole family, and therefore does not conflict with traditional Pacific family concepts, functions and roles but rather enhances this basic social unit. From this standpoint, we consider family planning to be a means of improving quality of family life and not an end in itself.

We note with real concern therefore that the Pacific Island family is coming under growing pressures, amongst which can be counted the geographical dispersion of family members induced by internal and external migration, and the increasing economic and social costs of meeting family and traditional obligations.

We urge that action be taken to address these issues and request governments, non-governmental organisations and other agencies to undertake appropriate activities in 1994 to mark the International Year of the Family, and to continue these actions beyond that year.

We also emphasise that population policies and programmes should give publicity to the role of family planning in enhancing the quality of family life.

Reproductive rights, reproductive health and family planning

Fertility rates are relatively high in most Pacific countries and territories for such reasons as health status, cultural beliefs and the perceived economic security which comes from large families. All Pacific countries and territories have in place MCH/FP programmes and/or policies to meet the needs of their communities and which are supported by the international community.

In the region MCH/FP programmes should address the following needs:

- to reduce the relatively high levels of maternal mortality;
- to reduce the relatively high levels of infant mortality;
- to improve information on and access to contraceptive methods to increase contraceptive prevalence with informed consent;
- to improve adolescent health, with special reference to fertility where applicable;

- to increase accessibility to and availability of safe, affordable, culturally and socially acceptable MCH/FP services.

Rates for each of these aspects vary between and within countries, as do short- and medium-term specific national targets. We would encourage adoption of the criteria for unmet needs for family planning services which are based on health risks and the principles of safe motherhood initiatives. These include births by mothers who are too young or too old, and those which are too close or too numerous.

We acknowledge with appreciation recent declines in infant and childhood mortality achieved in some parts of the region. At the same time the success in improving the survival of our children and the continuing high levels of fertility in many parts of the region has meant that many Pacific families are facing an increasingly heavy burden of inter-generational dependency.

We acknowledge that the successes achieved in improving child survival have yet to be matched by similar achievements in reducing fertility.

We accordingly stress the urgent need for an intensification of MCH and family planning programmes. In this context we note that in some cases insufficient information and counselling can act as a significant barrier to the desire for family planning, and therefore there is a need for information programmes to pay special attention to addressing gaps relating to information on human reproduction and the side effects of contraception.

Thus each family planning programme should be specific to the needs of the people it serves across the Pacific Region. We recognise that for the success of family planning programmes in the region the following considerations are essential:

- increased male involvement in, and recognition and acceptance of, the reproductive rights and responsibilities of men;

- partnership between governments and non-governmental organisations in the formulation and implementation of family planning services;

- community involvement, including participation of political, traditional and religious leaders;

- strengthening the first levels of referral both in terms of physical and human resources;

- integration with other areas of health planning and service delivery;

- positive commitment by governments;

- regular review, assessment and evaluation of progress and identification of unmet needs;

- counselling and information, including family life and health education in schools;

- increased coordination and collaboration among agencies and organisations, including donors, involved in family planning programmes.

Health and mortality

Across the region a wide range of mortality rates prevail, from levels of life expectancy which are low by developing country standards to those that are relatively high. We have identified maternal, infant and early childhood concerns as particularly important. Moreover, the challenges produced by the shift from traditional patterns of production and consumption and the increasing prevalence of diseases related to lifestyles is also an issue of major concern for Pacific Island countries and territories.

We note that maternal mortality is a significant cause of death among women of child-bearing age in the region. Thus, we

- reaffirm the commitment of many of our governments, given at the Amsterdam Forum and the World Summit for Children, to reduce the maternal mortality rate by half by the year 2000.

Specifically, we commit ourselves to achieve a rapid and substantial reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality, by

- taking the necessary steps to provide family planning knowledge and services to all men and women with the goal of improving the contraceptive prevalence rate;

- reducing the incidence of pregnancies among adolescents and older women, and pregnancies which are too frequent or too numerous births;

- providing all pregnant mothers with comprehensive ante natal and post natal care; and

- providing adequate care by trained personnel at delivery, and, in the event of complications, by ensuring that appropriate referral services are accessible.

We also reconfirm the commitment already given at the Amsterdam Forum and World Summit for Children, to reduce infant and early childhood mortality rates; and we dedicate ourselves to bring down infant and early childhood mortality rate by the year 2015 in accordance with specific quantifiable goals.

These mortality reduction targets require clear and attainable health goals, a number of which we identify:

- to continue the commitment to immunisation, control of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections;

- to encourage and assist women to breast feed their infants in the interests of both the mother and the child;

- to reduce the incidence of low birth weight babies by providing adequate attention to maternal nutrition and infectious diseases;

- to prevent and treat STDs, with special reference to AIDS prevention;

- to take adequate measures to prevent and to treat diseases such as diabetes and heart diseases which are becoming increasingly prominent with changes in lifestyles; and

- to encourage governments to ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Population distribution, urbanisation and internal migration

Movement of people within countries and territories is an important feature of the region, as is a steady shift of populations from rural to urban areas, particularly from outlying regions and islands to major urban centres.

While the region is currently characterised by low levels of urbanisation, it is experiencing high rates of urban growth and in a number of countries there are also significant population flows towards export production zones. We therefore note the need to develop innovative approaches to such population movements.

In recognising the significance of internal migration and population redistribution, and accepting its inevitability, we acknowledge the importance of addressing the causes and identifying the motivation behind such demographic changes just as we must focus on its impact on areas of origin and of destination. In that task the free movement of people within our countries and territories must be assured. However, we need to address the issues of rural development, equity and food security. Equally we must focus increased attention and resources on rectifying shortcomings in rural services which are often the principal motivation for the rural exodus.

We also acknowledge that additional data on population distribution, migration within our countries and territories and intra-regional migration will be an important factor in a clearer understanding of migration trends and the impacts of population redistribution.

International migration

Migration between countries and territories of the region, as well as to Pacific Rim countries, is markedly different for each of the three sub-regions of the Pacific. While in Melanesia, apart from New Caledonia, international migration has not been a significant factor, significant levels are being experienced by some Micronesian countries. In the case of Polynesia, relatively high fertility and declining mortality levels have been counterbalanced by emigration, thus producing low or even negative population growth rates.

We recognise both the advantages and disadvantages to countries and territories in the region of international migration. The motivation and causes of significant migration exchanges with Pacific Rim countries merits full recognition, as do the changing patterns of flows of remittances. We also recognise that the directions of current migration streams may change. We also appreciate that migration from our region is contributing to a significant loss of scarce human resources.

We recognise that for many Pacific Island countries and territories, net migration is an important component of population growth and will remain so for the foreseeable future. We are aware of the importance of remittances and other resource transfers between island countries and territories and Pacific Rim countries as a consequence of migration. We are also conscious of the role played by Pacific Island migrants in the development of Pacific Rim economies and seek to ensure that Pacific Island countries and territories and Pacific Rim countries conduct migration policies to their mutual benefit in a stable and transparent manner. In addition, we are mindful of the impact of migration into the territories of our region and accordingly urge administering powers to respect the wishes of the local populations.

Promotion of population information, education and communication

The effective implementation of population and sustainable development policies and programmes is, in large part, dependent on the free flow of informa-

tion, including that designed and produced within the region, to all sections of the Pacific Island community and the education of new generations.

There is a need for continued development of information, education and communication activities to promote family planning programmes and increase public awareness on the wide range of population issues. We recognise the need to

- adopt culturally appropriate methods to improve the knowledge and understanding of men, women, youth and adolescents about population and reproduction;

- increase the participation of community organisations, NGOs and other bodies in the dissemination and mobilisation of public support for family planning and health promotion;

- strengthen existing national communication capacities in support of family planning programmes;

- undertake research, pre-test and disseminate communication materials, utilise indigenous forms of communication, and develop support services systems for community outreach programmes; and

- use the mass media as well as informal communications for the dissemination of information.

The Pacific Population Information Network (POPIN), presently established in eight of the Pacific Island countries, should be extended to include others in the region. POPIN has the potential to strengthen national population information systems in the collection of information both intra-sectorally and inter-sectorally, and to further assist population studies through research into specific areas to be identified at national and regional levels.

Capacity building

Limited human, technical and financial resources is a fundamental constraint to the integration of population and development in decision-making in most Pacific Island countries and territories. This may also be compounded by inappropriate institutional and financial arrangements.

This is reflected in the relative lack of quality and timely statistics and the difficulties experienced by many countries and territories in adequately addressing population and sustainable development needs. Without such information, the integration of population considerations into development planning is hampered.

This lack of information inhibits conclusive statements on population trends. This then limits the capacity to effectively forecast education, health services needs and the future demand for employment. Thus we support the need for national and regional efforts in training, including to:

- ensure that more research on demographic processes is undertaken;
- improve and monitor demographic data collection to allow a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of population processes; and
- provide more timely analysis and dissemination of population statistics and demographic data.

We recognise that there is an urgent need for decision-makers to address population, economic and social concerns in a systematic and integrated way. The preparation of national population plans and policies, both short and longer term, is an important step. These should include issues of education and training; human, physical and financial resource requirements; legislation; and the essential and appropriate administrative infrastructure for effective decision-making.

We recommend that the integration of population and environmental issues into planning should become an integral part of development planning in the

region. To assist planners to undertake such new responsibilities, appropriate training needs to be provided to meet individual country needs.

Technology, research and development

The notion of sustainable development includes questions of technology. In this context technology can be viewed as having multiple dimensions.

In an effort to ensure sustainable development and maximise the use of available national resources in the region there is a need to maximise efforts to identify appropriate technology and ensure its development and adaption. This requires comprehensive research into the use of available resources in the region.

We thus urge continued international support for cost- effective and appropriate technologies, including architecture for housing in line with traditional values, further development of the use of plant life and other products for use in medicines, development of more appropriate cooking stoves, and higher quality potable water.

National action

We reaffirm the primacy of action at the national level in population, economic growth and sustainable development activities, while recognising the significant contribution of regional collaboration and international cooperation.

National action requires, in the first instance, the formulation of comprehensive population and development policies and the design of integrated plans and programmes of action to address the complex but interrelated issues of population and sustainable development. We urge governments to make firm commitments for the achievement of policies and programmes, and recommend that at least 20 per cent of public expenditure be allocated to social sector development programmes.

To ensure the effectiveness of national action, we encourage adoption of an integrated programmatic approach that would promote close linkages between project activities, sectoral programmes and national policies. This should be facilitated by the establishment of national and local planning and coordinative mechanisms and the mobilisation of various institutional and social groupings to ensure sustained action.

An important consideration for direct and concerted societal action is the establishment of clear, short and long term national goals for population, economic growth and sustainable development, especially in the areas of human resources development and the availability and access to MCH/FP services.

International cooperation

The development of national and regional programmes to promote population and sustainable development will require the continued provision of external technical and financial assistance for the foreseeable future and, in particular for the most vulnerable countries and territories in the region. In this regard we recognise the vital role of regional collaboration and international cooperation.

Attention is given to the need for international development agencies, donor organisations and partner countries to act in a coordinated manner to promote the attainment of policies and goals of the countries and territories of the region. In this regard we note with appreciation the efforts of all international agencies and donor organisations and encourage them to continue to cooperate with relevant regional organisations in full conformity with the wishes of the countries and territories of the region in coordinating population assistance within the overall context of sustainable development activities.

We particularly stress the need for continued full and close cooperation between regional organisations where issues of a cross-sectional and interrelated nature such as population and development are concerned.

We welcome additional support for population-related programmes from the

donor community and view this as timely recognition of the central place of population concerns within sustainable development.

Partnerships with non-governmental sectors

We recognise the important contribution of the many and varied non-governmental groups which are active within the countries and territories of the region.

Such groups, which are in most cases drawn from the community and know most directly the needs of their people, are acknowledged as making a vital contribution to the quality of life in many sectors. We agree that close cooperation between governments and the non-governmental sector needs to be further encouraged, including, wherever possible, by the involvement of NGO representatives in discussions of population and development priorities and programmes.

We support the proposed involvement of non-governmental representatives from the South Pacific in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development and hope that the necessary financial assistance can be provided to enable representative NGOs from the region with direct relevance to the Cairo Conference to prepare for and attend it and the final preparatory session in April 1994.

We further welcome the suggestion that NGOs from the region hold a briefing workshop prior to the April 1994 session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee and call on the international donor community to assist in the funding of such a gathering.

Preparations for and follow-up to the Conference

We agree that, while full and active involvement in preparations for the Cairo Conference and high level attendance at it would be most important for the countries and territories of the region, the real significance of South Pacific

efforts in the area of population and sustainable development lies in the actions set in motion to follow the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

We therefore agree that throughout the remainder of the preparatory process for the 1994 Conference the countries and territories of the region, together with regional organisations and institutions, continue to cooperate and collaborate to ensure the most effective recognition of those aspects of the Conference's mandate of direct relevance to the region.

We call on the Forum Secretariat, the South Pacific Commission, the South Regional Environment Programme, the Pacific Islands Development Programme and other relevant regional institutions to continue to work closely and collaboratively on all aspects of population and sustainable development. In order to ensure that a specific regional agency takes the role of coordination, we call on the Forum Secretariat to take this role, including during the lead-up to the Cairo Conference in close collaboration with other relevant regional organisations.

We acknowledge the assistance provided by the United Nations Population Fund and other international and regional organisations and donors, and urge their continued involvement in population and sustainable development activities.

In adopting this Declaration at Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 10 September 1993, we, the Ministers and representatives of the Pacific region, commit ourselves, our countries and territories to seek to ensure its immediate and ongoing implementation.

Port Vila, Vanuatu
10 September 1993

Noumea Declaration on Women and Sustainable Development

We the women of the Pacific Region,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,

Recognising Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 Chapter 24 of the UN Resolution which stresses women's vital role in environmental management and further calls for the full participation of women in sustainable development programmes,

Further recognizing the extensive efforts being made at the regional and international level to ensure continued interest and understanding among policy-makers, ministers and non-governmental organisations, and those affected by their decisions in the area of women and sustainable development,

Noting the invaluable contributions of donor countries, multilateral agencies and non-governmental agencies in the provision of technical and financial assistance for women's programmes in the Pacific Region,

Appreciating that despite the diversities and differences in our social, economic and political status as well as our cultural and religious values, the countries and territories of the Pacific share certain common concerns in regard to women and sustainable development,

Mindful also of the vital importance of a clear and consistent level of political support and a continued commitment to the effective implementation of policies and programmes for women and sustainable development,

Reaffirming the need for closer cooperation and continued mutual respect amongst countries and territories of the Pacific Region, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and governments in their efforts to address and solve the problems detrimental to achieving the goal of sustainable development,

Convinced that the women of the Pacific region have a unique identity which has been and continues to be shaped by the interaction of our people with our particular oceanic geographical environment and historic events. The resultant richness and diversity in culture and gender roles through out the island region is highly valued and constitutes the referent-guide for the inevitable change and development that we wish to bring about in our societies.

Recognising that we, the women of the Pacific Region, know that while we share the responsibility for both the material and moral well-being of the people of the Pacific Region, we have not been accorded due recognition in this regard. While we find this state of affairs unacceptable and wish to see it change we are mindful of the cost to our societies of too abrupt a change in gender roles.

Emphasising the uniqueness of our region as reflected in:

- the central role of custom and tradition,
- the primacy of the family,
- the strong affinity of our people with the land,
- the unique challenges we face as a consequence of our history, demography and geography,

Reviewing the progress made by governments of the Pacific region in implementing the recommendations and achieving the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies,

Addressing ourselves to the theme of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 'Action for Equality, Development and Peace,'

Acknowledging the efforts made by Pacific Island countries and territories to

promote the goals of Equality, Development and Peace, and the commitment and leadership they have shown in the creation and implementation of programs to meet these goals,

Proposing a Pacific Region Platform for Action to accelerate our full and equal participation in achieving sustainable development in the Pacific Region,

Identifying the following critical areas of concern:

- health
- education and training
- economic empowerment
- agriculture and fishing
- legal and human rights
- shared decision-making
- environment
- culture and the family
- mechanisms to promote the advancement of women
- violence
- peace and justice
- poverty
- indigenous people's rights

We, the women of the Pacific, adopt this Pacific Region Platform for Action as our statement of commitment towards achieving the goals of Equality, Development and Peace, and as a regional contribution to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women.

Noumea, New Caledonia
May 1994

Suva Declaration on Sustainable Human Development in the Pacific

We, the Ministers and representatives at this meeting on sustainable human development in the Pacific,

Recognising the extensive efforts being made at the regional and international levels to ensure continued interest and understanding among policy-makers, planners, administrators and those affected by their decisions, in the area of sustainable human development,

Noting that sustainable human development is consistent with the political commitment for people-centred development which already exists in all Pacific Island countries,

Acknowledging the active role Pacific Island countries have taken in the preparations for the United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the Port Vila Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development as part of the region's preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development (1994); and the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the World Conference on Women (1995),

Noting that a number of international agreements and commitments have been entered into, some of which include:

- Children's Summit
- Earth Summit and Agenda 21
- Environment and other conventions related to the environment
- Jomtien Conference on Education for All
- World Conference on Human Rights
- Women's Decade
- Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
- The Jakarta, Khartoum and Arusha regional declarations on people development.

Mindful of the fundamental social objectives of development, as contained in international declarations and strategies, and referring to emerging socio-economic problems affecting human well-being in the region which require a cohesive response from Pacific governments and peoples,

Noting with concern that Pacific Island countries are faced increasingly with these socio-economic problems, which include population increase, sluggish economic performance, rural-urban and international migration, unemployment and rapid urbanisation, weakening of traditional support systems, environmental threats, depletion of natural resources and growing inequalities,

Reiterating that the primary responsibility for improving the state of human well-being in the region rests with individual countries themselves,

Recognise that Pacific governments have addressed these problems in their own way and with the ongoing support of their development assistance partners. It is noted that each problem involves many underlying issues requiring strategies suited to each country which should take into account not only economic factors, but also deep-seated cultural and social values of Pacific societies, and the threats to the fragile environment,

Reaffirm that on account of the growing complexity of the issues involved, Pacific island countries are faced with new and unique challenges, foremost of which is how to realign policies, plans and programmes for a more effective response to current human development problems and constraints,

Emphasise that the pursuit of human well-being means maintaining the Pacific quality of life which ensures economic, social and spiritual well-being irrespective of age, gender, racial origin, creed and place of abode,

Urge all Pacific island countries to continue to give strong policy support and to take prompt and effective action:

- to ensure that human development concerns receive appropriate consideration and support at the highest levels of government through their full integration into overall national development policy, planning and pro-

gramming, as well as regular monitoring, assessment and reporting by all relevant agencies and organisations;

- to enable the majority of people to participate fully in socio-economic life and to be owners of their development processes;

- to build on the strengths of traditional systems, institutions and leaderships for community welfare, social order and environment management;

- to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed for the continued improvement of people's well-being;

- to promote the close working relationship of government agencies, non-governmental organisations, churches, traditional and indigenous institutions, community-based organisations, donors and other concerned entities towards the formulation, implementation and evaluation of human development policies, plans and programmes;

- to support country-level Sustainable Human Development initiatives with resources through budgetary allocations, restructuring of public expenditure and new and additional technical and financial support from donors;

Hereby adopt the recommended policies and strategy options in support of Sustainable Human Development which can be pursued by individual countries, as contained in the document annexed to this Declaration,

Invite all concerned donor countries and funding agencies, United Nations bodies and specialised agencies, regional and subregional organisations and institutions, and non-governmental organisations, some of whom participated in this meeting as observers, to continue to provide technical and financial support to each Pacific Island country in formulating and implementing their preferred strategy options for Sustainable Human Development,

Adopt the Suva Declaration on Sustainable Human Development to reaffirm our commitment to development which enhances the quality of life and human well-being in the Pacific. 19 May 1994, Suva, Fiji

Glossary

The following definitions are intended as a brief guide to some of the terms used in this document.

Average growth rate An index measuring a country's economic growth; normally relates to gross national product.

Cash economy An economy in which goods are bought, sold, consumed and produced for money.

Crude birth rate The number of children born alive each year per thousand of total population.

Family In the Pacific context, family refers to the extended family, including all relatives, both close and distant.

Fertility rate Here defined as total fertility rate; the average number of live children born per woman during the reproductive years (those years in which women are physically capable of bearing children, generally accepted as 15 to 49).

Formal sector Activities which provide gainful employment and are regulated by law and convention; includes industry and large-scale commercial activities.

Hospital-based care Centralised delivery of health services based on a curative approach.

Individualism An extension of self-reliance; social theory favouring the free action of individuals.

Infant mortality rate The number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 children born alive in a given year.

Informal sector Activities which offer some opportunity to earn money and are traditional or home-based. Examples include street hawking, crafts and small-scale commerce. Entry into this sector is unregulated and competitive, and relies on indigenous resources, family ownership and small-scale operation. Skills required are often learnt outside the formal school system.

Infrastructure Services essential for society to function: roads, shipping, air services, water supply, radio, telephone, etc.

Labour force That part of the population which is physically capable of working and of an age to do so (often taken to be ages 15 to 60); comprises both the employed and the unemployed.

Macro-economic strategies Guiding plans of action designed to determine large-scale economic variables such as: national rate of employment, income-levels and consumer price index.

Melanesian Broad ethnic classification of Pacific Islanders inhabiting the Western Pacific Islands of Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, and New Caledonia.

Micronesian Broad ethnic classification of Pacific Islanders inhabiting the North-Western and Central Pacific zone, namely the island countries of Guam, Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Nauru.

Pacific Region Defined in terms of the area served by the South Pacific Commission, consists of 22 island countries and territories spread over 30 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. It stretches in the North–South direction from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn, and in an East–West direction from longitude 130°W to 140°E. The regions land area is 551,000 square kilometres.

Pacific Rim All countries that encircle the Pacific Ocean: from New Zealand in the South to the Asian continent in the West; to Hawaii, mainland USA and Japan in the North Pacific, to Latin America in the East.

Polynesian Ethnic classification of Pacific Islanders living in the mid-Central, East and South-eastern Pacific Ocean, including Western Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Niue, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Pitcairn.

Poverty An absence of the basic necessities of life (food, water, clothing, shelter and essential services such as health care and education); may be relative or absolute.

Primary health care Community-based health services that include delivery of basic clinical services, but focus mainly on preventive health education and awareness programmes.

Rural In, of, or suggesting the country; refers to outer islands, remote highland areas or other areas distant from towns and cities.

Social and human development Enhanced individual and community wellbeing, and autonomy, within an integrated, equitable and just society (Eyben, 1993).

Strategy A guiding plan of action that does not merely identify a goal, but also provides the means to achieve it.

Structural adjustment A package of policies which emphasises boosting the productivity of an economy through: export and production incentives for the private sector; revised public investment programmes; and improved government budgeting and debt management. Often leads to a reduced role for the public sector and an increased role for the private sector and the market.

Subsistence economy An economy in which people produce for their own consumption requirements and little or nothing is bought and sold for money.

Traditional support systems The support provided by Pacific communities and extended families to their members to prevent financial, emotional, and physical hardship.

Underemployed Not fully employed in either the cash or subsistence economies.

Under-nutrition Lack or imbalance of the food and nutrients required for a reasonable level of health.

Unemployed Lacking employment; should not include those living subsistence lifestyles by choice and tradition; can be applied by degrees.

Urban In, of, or suggesting towns and cities; most capital cities and towns of the Pacific and satellite towns in the larger Pacific Islands are considered urban areas.

Urbanisation The construction of the urban, often at the expense of the destruction of the rural; both a cause and an effect of population shifts to urban areas.

Wage employment Working for fixed, regular payments.

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Notes