

# **Workshop on Evidence-based Policies on Youth Development in the Pacific**

**Novotel Hotel, Nadi, 13–16 June 2016**

## **STATEMENT OF THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT YOUTH OFFICIALS**



### **Youth – worthy of Pacific regional prioritisation**

We, Senior Government Officials, from twelve Pacific island countries, have met in Nadi at a workshop on “Evidence-based Policies on Youth Development in the Pacific”. We represent youth ministries and departments from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu .

We have discussed our progress to date, our challenges and our common way forward related to youth policies in the region. We recognise the position of youth and evidence-based youth policies as essential components of our nations’ development, and to address the four pillars of the Pacific Youth Development Framework: education and employment; young people’s health; governance and participation; and youth engagement in climate change and environmental action.

To address our common challenges we recognise the value of learning from each other. We agree to share our pool of expertise across the region in the spirit of regionalism. We have agreed to develop country action plans that will strengthen evidence-based youth policy development and implementation. We have also agreed to key areas to strengthen our partnerships with national youth councils and their networks of youth.

In the context of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, we, senior Government Officials from twelve Pacific island countries, support the consideration of youth as a regional priority by the Pacific Community's governing body, the Committee of Regional Governments and Administrations.

In addition to the submission by the Pacific Youth Council to the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism, delegated now to the Pacific Community's governing body, we recognise the efforts of governments, youth councils, civil society and development partners to raise youth as a national and regional priority in line with the Pacific Youth Development Framework.

An increased regional commitment to youth is in line with commitments made at the Pacific Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in Samoa 2015, as well as the World Programme of Action for Youth, the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway (Small Island Development States Accelerated Modalities of Action) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – specifically, its objective to leave no person behind.

An increased development focus should strengthen the statistical evidence-base for youth, progress youth policy implementation in partnership with young people, professionalise youth work, strengthen networks to include young people, especially those from more marginalised groups, and feature youth across all sectors of development.