

The project will build the capacity of civil society in 8 target countries including; **Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.**

Strengthening the voice of non-state actors will help to inform regional policy with evidence based approaches, and to harness the largely untapped potential of sport to contribute to regional development and harmonization across health, education, gender equality, social inclusion, peace-building and economic empowerment.

On Sport as a new dimension to development, recognizing that: sport brings a new dimension to regional cooperation for development partnerships, and continues to make a significant contribution to economic development in Pacific Island Countries; there is no consolidated regional approach to sport policy development to ensure good decisions for the future health, development and well-being of Pacific Island peoples; such a regional approach should include a measurement framework to track regional expenditure in and through sport.

CSO Statement

Forum Economic Ministers Meeting 2017

NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Pacific Sports Compass is an initiative of the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) in partnership with UNESCO and Sport Matters. ONOC is one of five Continental Olympic bodies that look after the interests of 17 member nations from the Pacific region. UNESCO brings strong capacity in providing technical advice to the Governments of Pacific Island Countries in policy making, and Sport Matters is a leading agency specializing in sport for development in the Asia-Pacific region.

At the 4th Pacific Sports Ministers Meeting in 2015 in Papua New Guinea⁸, Sports Ministers acknowledged the value of sport for development in the Pacific, reaffirmed the Declaration of Berlin as a set of key recommendations for the future of sport in the Pacific, and endorsed ONOC as a lead agency for the implementation of the Declaration in the Pacific.

ONOC formed a dedicated working group to further develop the recommendations from the MINEPS V consultation workshop in 2015 and take forward the agenda of sport for development in the region.

The ONOC Working Group includes:

- **Dr Robin Mitchell (Chair)**
President, Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC)
- **Luatua Seumanutafa Semi Epati**
Assistant CEO – Sports, Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, Government of Samoa
- **Lorraine Mar**
Secretary General & CEO, Fiji Association of Sport and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC)
- **Terry Sasser**
Secretary General, Marshall Islands National Olympic Committee (MINOC)
- **Yvonne Mullins**
Executive Director, Oceania Athletics Association
- **Martin Burrows**
OSIC Coordinator, Oceania Sport Information Centre (OSIC)
- **Matthew Vaea**
Training and Education Consultant, Samoa Association of Sport and National Olympic Committee (SASANOC)
- **Dennis Miller**
Executive Director, Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC)
- **Van Nguyen Thanh**
Associate Programme Specialist – Social and Human Sciences
UNESCO Office for the Pacific States
- **Jackie Lauff**
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IMAGE CREDITS:

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Inside page: Vanuatu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (VASANOC), Stephanie Ephraim Lekol (Olympic Day rugby activities in Vanuatu)

Inside page: Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports (Learning to swim at school in Fiji)

⁸ Communiqué from the 4th Pacific Sports Ministers Meeting, Papua New Guinea, 3 July 2015.

Strengthening Sport for Development in the Pacific

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Strengthening Non-State Actors (NSAs) Engagement
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OVERVIEW

Sport plays an important role in the social, cultural and economic life of Pacific Island Countries. The contribution of sport to national development and well-being have long been recognized, but it is only more recently that sport is playing a more prominent role as a tool for achieving sustainable development.

The Pacific Sports Compass is a regional initiative to promote sport for development through strategic approaches based on sound evidence, consultation and partnership. Through the focus area of comprehensive sport policy for sustainable development, the Pacific Sports Compass will provide a structured process to build the partnership between sport and the wider development community to ensure that sport makes an active contribution to the well-being of Pacific peoples.

- The Pacific Sports Compass aims to:
- Develop regional coordination and partnerships across state and non-state actors
 - Coordinate national and regional research on the contribution of sport to sustainable development
 - Review and enhance national sport policy across the Pacific countries
 - Develop knowledge and information sharing mechanisms
 - Support national governments in setting policy priorities in sport for development
 - Develop a measurement framework to support regional policy implementation
 - Build capacity of regional non-state actors in advocacy and policy development

The initiative builds on a consultation hosted in Fiji in April 2015 by UNESCO in partnership with the Oceania National Olympic Committees on the Declaration of Berlin¹, a landmark outcome of the Fifth International Conference of Ministers and Officials of Sport (MINEPS V). The consultation was attended by 65 representatives from Government, National Olympic Committees, sporting federations and community organisations from the Pacific region.

SPORT BRINGS A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO PACIFIC REGIONALISM

The Pacific Islands Forum is the political grouping of the 16 independent and self-governing states and two territories in the Pacific region. Its Secretariat (PIFS), based in Suva, Fiji, delivers on the decisions made at the annual Forum Leaders meetings and high level ministerial meetings.

In 2014, Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum endorsed a Pacific Vision that was for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives. The Pacific Plan active from 2005 to 2014, has now been recast as the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. The Framework sets out the vision, values, objectives and approaches towards deeper regionalism. It also outlines a regional public policy process to negotiate and agree a handful of “game-changing” regional priorities.

Central to the Framework for Pacific Regionalism is the concept of ‘inclusivity’ and promoting a more open, engaging and meaningful approach to regional public policy development. Through new public engagement mechanisms, such as the Private Sector Roundtable, and the

Civil Society Forum Troika Dialogue, Pacific communities are connecting with regional decision makers. Five representatives from National Olympic Committees have also participated in a regional capacity building programme with an emphasis on skill development across policy, advocacy and research.



Under the leadership of a dedicated Taskforce, a Pacific SDGs Roadmap has been developed to support regional action towards implementing the SDGs in Pacific Island Countries. The SDGs Roadmap will guide development assistance for implementing and reporting on the SDGs in terms of national development priorities.

“SPORT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ENABLER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. WE RECOGNIZE THE GROWING CONTRIBUTION OF SPORT TO THE REALIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN ITS PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE AND RESPECT AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS IT MAKES TO THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND OF YOUNG PEOPLE, INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION OBJECTIVES.”

Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Sport is gaining prominence in the Pacific as a tool for regional cooperation. For example, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and its association civil society engagement mechanisms have brought sport alongside other development thematic areas and to the attention of Pacific Sports Ministers and Pacific Island Forum Leaders.

Leaders have recognised the importance of sport in the overall development of Forum countries and the important role of sport as a potential tool for development and peace, within the broader social, political and economic wellbeing of the people of the Pacific. In 2015, Forum Leaders also included references to sport in the Hiri Declaration² on “Strengthening connections to enhance Pacific Regionalism” in relation to building people to people connectivity and the promotion of sporting activities as a way to strengthen connections to enhance Pacific regionalism.

Through the civil society engagement mechanisms, sport has been included in regional advocacy through direct engagement at high level meetings including the 2016 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in the Federated States of Micronesia and the 2017 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in Fiji. Forum Economic Ministers recognised the potential of the sports industry as a driver of economic growth and urged Member countries to invest in an innovative regional policy and measurement framework to capture the contribution of sport to the Pacific SDGs Roadmap, and the return on investment for sport in Pacific Island Countries³.

Sport brings a new dimension to regional cooperation for development of Pacific Island Countries and an opportunity to explore new partnership models that engages government via a multi-sectoral approach across sport, health, education, gender, disability, foreign affairs, tourism, trade and economics.

“THE IOC SHARES THE IMPORTANT GOALS OF PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITY. BASED ON OUR SHARED VALUES OF TOLERANCE, SOLIDARITY AND PEACE, WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.”

Thomas Bach, President International Olympic Committee (IOC)

THE CONTRIBUTION OF SPORT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Access to sport is a fundamental human right. The right to sport is mandated in UNESCO’s International Charter on Physical Education and Sport⁵, in the Olympic Charter and in numerous international human rights instruments. The idea of sport contributing to global development is not new.⁶ However, sport has gained international prominence and momentum during the era of the Millennium Goals and there is greater international collaboration, a growing and more sophisticated evidence base and closer alignment to the aid and development sector around the world.

Of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, six goals have been identified as areas where sport-based approaches could make significant and cost-effective contributions⁷:

- Goal 3** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages
- Goal 4** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 8** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 11** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 16** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Sport is a powerful enabler of sustainable development under the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Framework and sport is a critical and cross-cutting component of social, economic and political development of Pacific Island Countries.



PROMOTING QUALITY PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICY IN FIJI

Physical education enables young people to develop and harness a range of skills and experiences which are critical for their adulthood transition. Understanding the importance of ensuring inclusive and quality physical education for all, Fiji is in the process of revising its national physical education policy in accordance with the Quality Physical Education Guidelines. Policy revision in Fiji is spearheaded and coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, National Archives of Fiji with support of UNESCO and in collaboration with other line Ministries, UN Agencies and development partners. The initiative is part of a wider policy intervention of UNESCO in five countries including Fiji, Tunisia, South Africa, Mexico and Zambia with the financial support of International Olympic Committee and Nike.

RAISING THE VOICE FOR SPORT IN THE PACIFIC

Sport policy in the Pacific has received very little attention on the regional agenda. A new regional project called ‘Raising the Voice for Sport in the Pacific’ will strengthen regional coordination and advocacy, and develop concrete mechanisms for influencing policy processes across consultation, development, implementation and review in sport, and also through sport, to other policy areas such as health, education, gender, disability and youth.

The regional initiative is funded by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the European Union through the Strengthening Non-State Actors (NSAs) Engagement in Regional Policy Development and Implementation Programme.

- The project aims to:
- i) Bring NSA stakeholders together from across the region to strengthen and unite advocacy efforts from diverse civil society stakeholders and promote informed contribution and influence of national sport policy development from NSAs.
 - ii) Conduct a series of national and regional consultations to capture the united voice of NSA stakeholders and to inform policy development in the area of sport, physical activity and physical education.
 - iii) Develop and deliver a regional strategy to advocate for the development of comprehensive sport policy and ensure that the voices of NSA's are systematically captured in the policy development process.

¹ MINEPS V Declaration of Berlin (2013).

² Hiri Declaration on Strengthening Connections to Enhance Pacific Regionalism, Port Moresby Papua New Guinea, 10 September 2015.

³ Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, FEMM Action Plan, 6 April 2017.

⁴ Remarks on the occasion of the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. UN Sustainable Development Summit. New York, 26 September 2015.

⁵ UNESCO International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (2015).

⁶ UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace. 2003. Sport for Development and Peace: Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals. http://www.unep.org/sport_env/Documents/TaskForce_report.pdf.

⁷ Commonwealth Secretariat. Sport for Development and Peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (2015).