



Pacific Youth Summit for MDGs

8-12 May 2005 TOFAMAMAO, SAMOA

PACIFIC TOFAMAMAO 2015 Declaration of the Pacific Youth Summit for MDGs

We, the future leaders of the Pacific, pledge to take positive action for the betterment of our region. We seek the guidance and support of our political leaders to fulfill our vision for Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and beyond.

We, the delegates of the Pacific Youth MDGs Summit, being future leaders of the Pacific, gathered here in Tofamamao, Apia, unified in our rich diversity and regional solidarity:

- **Affirm** the UN Millennium Declaration and its six core values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility endorsed by all UN Member States at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000
- **Appreciate** Pacific Tofamamao 2015, the region-wide initiative spearheaded by UN agencies and youth and all sections of society
- **Believe** that the success of the MDGs in the Pacific requires the direct involvement of youth and all sections of society
- **Acknowledge** international, regional and national youth summits and declarations
- **Recognize** the unique distinction and dynamics of the Pacific region
- **Reaffirm** universal values such as equality, justice, peace and respect for human dignity
- **Recognise** the progress made to date in the area of MDGs in the Pacific
- **Welcome** the opportunity to work in partnership with religious, political, civil society, business organisations and associations.

However,

- We express our deep concern that there are limited resources and severe constraints faced by people in the Pacific in meeting basic necessities
- We highlight the immediate need for gender equality across the Pacific
- We are concerned by the lack of recognition and commitment in achieving environmental sustainability in the Pacific
- We are mindful of the limited opportunities of ICT development for youth in the Pacific
- We are concerned with political conflicts and civil unrest that have impacted the lives of people in the Pacific region
- We are concerned with the rising incidence of youth suicide in the Pacific.

We therefore,

- Urge the Pacific region to strengthen its commitment and focus to achieve the MDGs and to improve the lives of all its people
- Embrace the United Nations World Youth Report 2003
- Are determined to integrate MDGs into local and national policies
- Are committed to act upon the National Youth MDGs Action Plans for each country and their full integration at a national level as outlined in the National Youth MDG Action Plans developed at the Pacific MDG Youth Summit
- As Pacific youth, governments and all stakeholders express co-ownership of the MDGs
- Call for empowering youth representation in government and non-government institutions to proactively achieve the MDGs
- Stress the importance of integrated national youth policies and their linkages to the MDGs and Pacific Tofamamao 2015
- Urge for open and accessible information sharing and networking opportunities for Pacific youth.

Moreover,

We recognise regional issues affecting youth and communities in the Pacific pertaining to each of the MDGs as highlighted below:

MDG 1: ERADICATE POVERTY AND HUNGER

There is an urgent need for linkages between youth and poverty to be identified in the Pacific perspective. With the lack of data on youth living in poverty in the Pacific region, we call for island governments and development partners to conduct studies on poverty of opportunities and accessibility to basic services in the region. In addition, governments should create mechanisms to ensure that young people are involved in the development of poverty reduction strategies in their respective island nations.

Options for action:

- Initiate non-formal education programs to build the capacity of young people to initiate poverty reduction strategies
- Encourage, support and promote self income generation initiatives e.g. young farmers projects, home gardens, etc.
- Establish initiatives for young people to contribute productively to food security



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MINISTRY OF WOMEN, COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Improve accessibility for young men and women to essential social services and life enhancement opportunities.*

MDG 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Education is the key for the future of young people and young people's knowledge. Their ideas, talents and skills must be developed to foster peace, equity and sustainability in the Pacific region.

Unfortunately not all young people of school age have access to or complete a full course of formal education. Initiatives should be implemented to encourage regular participation of young people in the formal education system and making formal education affordable for low-income families.

Options for action:

- *Parents and communities to be actively involved in the operation of educational institutions*
- *Terms and conditions of service and training for teachers need to be improved*
- *School curriculums need to be designed and regularly updated to cater for the changing educational needs of young people*
- *Provide opportunities for young people to contribute to curriculum content and implementation through the establishment and on-going support for student school councils*
- *Introduce measures to ensure that all students attend school and involve students in the enforcement of these measures e.g. Student Truancy Policies*
- *Establish affordable non-formal educational initiatives to supplement the formal primary curriculum e.g. summer schools, holiday programs and after school programs*
- *Introduce measures to reintegrate youth who have dropped out of school into skills building and training programs to ensure that they have access to a range of learning options outside of mainstream education*
- *Encourage the establishment of schemes to subsidize the participation of school children from low income families in the formal education system*
- *Encourage the establishment and increase access and awareness to specialized services and amenities for children with disabilities and special needs.*

MDG 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

There is a great need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of young women and girls. However we recognize that the statistical data and information on the status of young women in the Pacific is limited. Innovative measures to support the development of skills and enhancement of leadership qualities of young women and girls are needed. This includes providing sustainable opportunities for young women to participate in decision-making at all levels of society and sensitizing male leaders to the advantages of working in equal partnerships. These initiatives can be further enhanced through the recognition of the contributions of young women to the development of society.

Options for action:

- *Establish more training programs for leadership development of young women. e.g. the Tonga National Youth Congress Women's Youth Caucus and the Samoa Women's Youth Parliament*
- *Establish programs that promote the active participation of young women in the economy*
- *Introduce programs that provide opportunities for young women to fully participate in decision making processes including male advocacy programs*
- *Encourage and support the advancement of women in the political arena.*
- *Encourage advocacy initiatives on women's issues*
- *Encourage the compilation of data on young women's participation in education, literacy, the labour force, and political decision making*
- *Strengthen national efforts to implement initiatives under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).*

MDG 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Young people can contribute towards the reduction of child mortality in their communities. This is possible through training young people to provide health related services to their peers. Young mothers, midwives, health professionals, and community health workers need to be trained in the provision of high quality pre and post-natal care. Youth advocacy initiatives are needed to ensure the provision of essential vaccinations, clean water and air, and sanitation to children at risk.

Options for action:

- *Establish more training programs for young people in community based health work, antenatal care, emergency obstetric care and family planning*
- *Provide services to help young people prevent unplanned pregnancy*
- *Establish youth friendly clinics and promote peer to peer education on adolescent reproductive health*
- *Promote youth campaigns to make vaccinations for infectious diseases available to all children*
- *Provide easier access to clean water and sanitation through the promotion of youth initiatives to address local public health problems*
- *Provide financial support where necessary to young mothers from low income families for the maintenance of the child*
- *Conduct ongoing awareness programs on malaria and malnutrition issues as underlying causes of child mortality*
- *Strengthen national efforts to implement initiatives under the Convention of the Rights of the Child.*

MDG 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

We recognize the achievements and significant progress that has been made towards achieving the targets of this goal by Pacific nations. We highlight the need for the obligations of Pacific Governments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to strengthen policies and programs to ensure that the targets in this goal are achieved. In order for maternal health to be improved, there needs to be programs that deal specifically with maternal health, safe motherhood and nutrition. Religious and cultural barriers continue to present a challenge when addressing maternal health and therefore needs special attention. A distinct lack of resources exists in some areas, such as specialized services for childbirth needs to be addressed.

Options for Action:

- *Resources must be made available to ensure that all mothers have access to quality maternal health care that is safe and reliable*
- *More accurate information on the rate of teenage pregnancy needs to be readily available*
- *Establish youth friendly clinics to help prevent child bearing at young ages and unplanned pregnancies as well as promoting longer intervals between pregnancies*
- *Establish youth friendly clinics for young mothers*
- *Improve involvement and role of men in maternal health programs.*

MDG 6: COMBAT HIVAIDS MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Despite efforts to reverse the spread of HIVAIDS being undertaken in the Pacific we recognize that some nations will not achieve the targets of this goal by 2015. We also recognize the problem of Non Communicable Diseases in Pacific nations such as Diabetes and Gout, communicable diseases including Tuberculosis and vector-borne diseases like Malaria. The Governments of Pacific island nations are urged to increase their efforts towards halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases in their countries. Globally, everyday 6000 young people become infected with the virus, and in the Pacific statistics show that young girls in particular are the most vulnerable to infections; therefore the susceptibility of youth to HIVAIDS must be examined in detail. Young people face difficulty accessing sexual and reproductive health services, especially Voluntary Counseling and Confidential Testing (VCCT) information.

Options for Action:

- *Work in partnerships with the church and leaders and integrate HIV/AIDS, STIs and NCDs education into theological training*
- *Establish Parent Education Schemes e.g. Parent to Parent Outreach, Peer to Peer Education and more educational HIV/AIDS programs in schools*
- *Ensure the involvement of young people in sexual behavioral research and the implementation of programs*
- *Encourage abstinence and safe behavior through individual spiritual commitments*

- *Make available finance and resources for HIV/AIDS, STIs and NCDs awareness and advocacy programs*
- *Establish mobile youth friendly clinics*
- *Mainstream youth issues into health services*
- *Greater provision of condoms in communities including female condoms*
- *The establishment of a Scientific Research Center for the Pacific to contribute towards finding a cure for HIVAIDS*
- *Promote Lifeskills education*
- *The need for more accurate information on youth infections (reported and unreported cases)*
- *Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS programs into national development programs and policies*
- *Provide a supportive environment to minimize the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIVAIDS and their families.*

MDG 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Significant amounts of funding have been channeled to ensure that the principles of sustainable development have been integrated into national policies and programs to reverse the loss of environment resources. However there has been very little overall progress and results despite effective community based environmental management initiatives in many countries of the region. Environment exploitation continues to escalate and must be strategically addressed.

We realize that there are no local targets, and that there continues to be a lack of integration of sustainable development policies into national planning frameworks. In some countries there is weak or no legislation, which presents a difficulty in enforcement. A lack of data and statistics has contributed to limited environmental education and awareness programs for youth including waste management programs. Furthermore, there is a lack of capacity to report on this goal. Geographic disparity presents a challenge in achieving some of these targets. In some cases environment projects have lacked the capacity for sustainability due to the lack of resources and management.

Options for Action:

- *National Youth Policies highlight the need for youth to be involved in decision-making on the environment*
- *National surveys and data collection undertaken to reflect the involvement and impact of the targets in relation to youth.*
- *That there be equal support and resources available for both urban and rural youth to support their work to achieve the targets of this goal.*
- *There be more training opportunities for youth through the provision of scholarships and exchanges.*
- *Campaigns on sustainable practices involve youth and also have specific targeted campaigns for youth e.g. recycling plastics*
- *There is a need to promote youth environment groups and strengthen youth environment networks*
- *That young people mobilize donor resources to compliment existing programs*
- *That more effort be channeled towards implementing the Youth Visioning for Island Living Declaration adopted in Mauritius 2005.*

MDG 8: TO DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening global partnership is vital to ensuring that young people become active partners as well as beneficiaries in development. Resourcefulness for development can serve as a means for involving youth and creating sustainable livelihoods that provide new opportunities for today's isolated youth to participate in the global economy.

Options for Action:

- *Advance ICTs to enhance and increase productivity, strengthen regional networks, increase education opportunities that will address unemployment and economic growth*
- *Ongoing regional consultations between Pacific countries to address debt*
- *Increase funding commitments for youth development with proper monitoring and reporting systems*
- *Engage young people in developing income generating activities and opportunities for business investments as a means for addressing youth unemployment*
- *Introduce regional youth tradeshows to showcase the contributions of young people to economic development*
- *Advocate for the inclusion of Youth representatives in National MDG Task Forces*
- *Advocate for Youth representatives to be part of government delegations to regional and UN leaders meetings.*
- *Lobby Government and Development Agencies to allocate more resources towards the establishment of employment, self-employment and innovative income generation schemes for young people*
- *Lobby for increased funding support from donor agencies to help countries meet their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals.*

To achieve all the visions articulated in this declaration, we call for continuous collaboration in the Pacific region and dialogue between youth leaders in the Pacific and around the globe.

As advocates for positive development in the Pacific region,

- ***We are honored to have been designated Millennium Campaign Youth Advocates and we strive to contribute to the mobilization of our societies towards the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015***
- ***We are committed to spreading the messages of Pacific Tofamamao 2015 by mobilizing global and local resources, raising awareness and, ultimately, as agents and advocates of positive change in our countries***
- ***We call for the incorporation of the aspirations of this declaration into the Pacific Plan and the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010.***