

# PACIFIC REGIONAL EXPERIENCE-SHARING WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS



**CONCEPT NOTE**

## UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO THE PACIFIC

20-22 NOVEMBER 2023  
APIA, SAMOA



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
TREATY BODIES



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
*Pacific Regional Office*

**unicef** 

for every child

## United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

### Follow-Up Visit to the Pacific

#### “Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on Implementation of Recommendations”

20-22 November 2023

Taumeasina Resort, Apia, Samoa

## Concept Note

### 1. Background

In March 2020, the 84th Extraordinary Outreach Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC84) took place in Samoa marking the first time any of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies have met outside United Nations headquarters in Geneva or New York.<sup>1</sup>

As part of CRC84 from 2 to 6 March 2020, the Committee held constructive dialogues with State party delegations from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Tuvalu. As a result, the Committee adopted its concluding observations on the periodic reports of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Tuvalu. During CRC84, the Committee also held meetings with children from Samoa in plenary to discuss pressing children’s rights issues.

The Committee received positive feedback from children, States parties, civil society organizations, and development agencies, acknowledging that CRC84 has generated significant public interest on children’s rights issues in the Pacific, raised Pacific rights-holders and duty-bearers’ awareness of children’s rights and of the work of UN human rights treaty bodies, facilitated wider participation into the work of the Committee, and provided a platform for national, regional and international stakeholders to establish and strengthen partnerships towards supporting enhanced implementation of human rights mechanisms’ recommendations.

Recalling the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which has paved the way for the development of international human rights treaties including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee notes that promotion and protection of human rights of the child remains of utmost importance at national, regional and international levels. The Committee also recognizes that the implementation of international human rights mechanisms’ recommendations is a key step to create positive human rights change in the lives of rights-holders, and that more work needs to be done for effective implementation of its recommendations to improve the enjoyment of children’s rights against pressing national, regional, and global challenges.

In this context and following up on CRC84, the Committee expects that, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Tuvalu would have taken certain measures to give effect to the Committee’s recommendations, and that they may have collected some good practice stories on implementation of the CRC recommendations, while also having faced particular constraints and challenges to implementation. The Committee notes that all Pacific Island Countries are party to the Convention on

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<sup>1</sup> The fourth biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the human rights treaty body system A/77/279, para. 2.

the Rights of the Child and have at least once received the Committee's recommendations after a constructive dialogue, starting the implementation and follow-up phase.

Against this background, the Committee has decided to organize a follow-up visit to the Pacific, to meet with duty-bearers and rights-holders from the Pacific. Through its follow-up visit, the Committee seeks to generate national and regional momentum for enhanced implementation of its recommendations by creating a space for expert feedback, experience sharing, peer-to-peer learning, awareness-raising, and capacity-building. This visit will also provide the opportunity for children and young people to engage directly in dialogue with the Committee members, ensuring that their voices are heard, and that they are empowered as key stakeholder to realizing their rights set out in the Convention.

In addition, the Committee also considers this follow-up visit as an opportunity to test different modalities of engagement with duty-bearers and rights-holders, in the context of the discussions on the operationalization of a predictable review cycle, and taking into account the resource constraints of small States and small island States.<sup>2</sup> The Committee notes that the follow up visit and the exchanges with State representatives do not substitute State parties' treaty reporting obligations, and that these exchanges with State representatives do not constitute a formal review under the Convention.

## 2. Proposal

The Committee delegation will conduct a follow-up visit to the Pacific and meet with duty-bearers and rights-holders, from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Tuvalu during three Country Visits, and all Pacific Island Countries during the Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on Implementation of Recommendations in Samoa.

## 3. Partnerships

The Committee acknowledges the human, technical, and financial resources needed for the organization of the three Country Visits and the Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on Implementation of Recommendations, and appreciates the provision of the required support by its Secretariat as well as OHCHR Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF Pacific, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Samoa, and the Pacific Community (SPC).

## 4. Objectives

The objectives of the Follow-Up Visit are as follows:

- A space for sharing experiences on good practices and challenges of implementation of CRC recommendations and for expert and peer-to-peer feedback has been created;
- Key duty-bearers and rights-holders on relevant children's rights issues have a better understanding on the importance of follow-up and implementation of CRC recommendations for enhanced stakeholder engagement;
- Opportunity for direct dialogue with children and young people on issues concerning their rights have been provided;
- Skill and capacity at the national level for improved implementation of CRC recommendations have improved.

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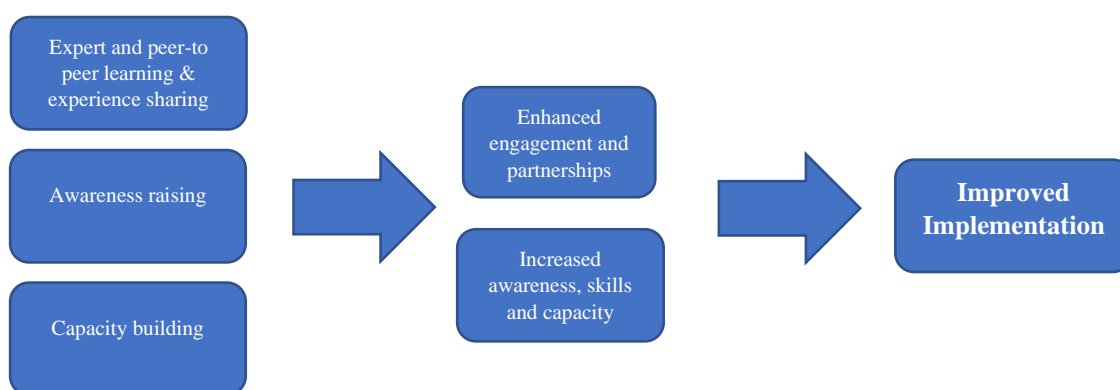
<sup>2</sup> Decision No. 15 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted at the 89<sup>th</sup> session; Report of the co-facilitators on the consideration of the state of the United Nations human rights treaty body system A/75/601, annex, paras. 56, 69 and 73.



## 5. Expected outcomes

- Implementation plans for CRC recommendations have been developed by the States Parties based on lessons learned and best practices.
- Partnerships have been enhanced amongst key national, regional, and international stakeholders, for effective follow up to the plans, roadmaps, and commitments made to implement CRC recommendations.
- Children and young people are engaged in meaningful dialogue on their rights in an enabling environment that progressively supports them to reach their full potential.

## 6. Theory of change



## 7. Next steps after the Follow Up Visit

**Implementation Plans:** UNICEF Pacific, OHCHR Pacific Regional Office, and SPC HRSD will follow up with the Pacific Island Country Governments and other key stakeholders, in regular intervals to check in on the progress made, and provide the necessary support for the execution of implementation plans.

**Briefing to the Plenary:** In the following CRC session in Geneva, CRC delegation will brief the Committee's Plenary on the outcomes of the CRC Follow-Up Visit.

**Acknowledgments:** CRC members will follow-up with the Host Governments, Participating Pacific Island Country Governments, civil society organizations, and children, to acknowledge and thank for their cooperation in the CRC Follow-Up Visit to the Pacific and call upon them to use the momentum of the visit to accelerate efforts for the implementation of recommendations of the Committee and other human rights mechanisms.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** The organizers will request feedback from children, Government representatives, civil society organizations and other participants to monitor and evaluate the Follow-Up Visit.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Reference is made to SPC's proposed monitoring and evaluation plan, using a methodology similar to what was used for the CRC 84th extraordinary outreach session. The outcome will be reviewed by the organizers and will be disseminated further. SPC's Review of CRC84 can be accessed at [HRSD website](#).

## Annex I

### Schedule of the CRC Follow-Up Visit to the Pacific (13-22 November 2023)

<i>Schedule</i>				
		CRC Delegation 1	CRC Delegation 2	CRC Delegation 3
<b>Day 1</b>	13 November, Monday	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Travel</i>	Micronesia Country Visit
<b>Day 2</b>	14 November, Tuesday	<i>Cook Islands Country Visit</i>	<i>Tuvalu Country Visit</i>	Micronesia Country Visit
<b>Day 3</b>	15 November, Wednesday	<i>Cook Islands Country Visit</i>	<i>Tuvalu Country Visit</i>	Micronesia Country Visit
<b>Day 4</b>	16 November, Thursday	<i>Cook Islands Country Visit</i>	<i>Tuvalu Country Visit</i>	<i>Travel</i>
<b>Day 5</b>	17 November, Friday	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Tuvalu Country Visit</i>	<i>Travel</i>
<b>Day 6</b>	18 November, Saturday	<i>Travel</i>		
<b>Day 7</b>	19 November, Sunday	<i>Travel</i>		
<b>Day 8</b>	20 November, Monday	Pacific Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on Implementation of Recommendations		
<b>Day 9</b>	21 November, Tuesday	Pacific Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on Implementation of Recommendations		
<b>Day 10</b>	22 November, Wednesday	Pacific Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on Implementation of Recommendations		