

**“Building Back Better –
10th Anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights”
Business, Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the
Climate Emergency in the Pacific
2nd Regional Online Capacity Building Program – Report**

August 2021

Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the Pacific Region in partnership with Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), Citizens’ Constitutional Forum (CCF) and Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)

1. Summary

This is the report of the Diplomacy Training Program’s (DTP) second online Pacific regional capacity building on Business, Human Rights (BHR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year’s program also had an increased focus on the climate emergency in the Pacific.

Over 30 participants from 15 Pacific Island nations were selected from over 80 applications. The program took place over eight online sessions of 1.5 hours over four weeks in August 2021. The participants were drawn largely from civil society, but also included representatives of business, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and government.

The sessions were delivered by leading experts and practitioners including Professor Surya Deva, Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Professor Justine Nolan, Director of the Australian Human Rights Institute, Claire Slatter, PIANGO Director, Siale Ilolahia, Margaret Wachenfeld, Robert Vaughan, Amy Sinclair, John Southalan, Dr Matthew Baird, and Joshua Cooper. These trainers generously donated their time and expertise, and DTP would like to acknowledge their contribution.

The program was jointly organised and delivered by the DTP, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Regional Office for the Pacific (OHCHR-ROP), the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), the Citizens’ Constitutional Forum (CCF) and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC).

The program is part of a longer-term collaboration between the partners to build knowledge and understanding of key international frameworks on human rights, business and development, and to facilitate dialogue and advocacy by civil society using these frameworks. The partners have now developed and delivered two regional workshops, two regional online programs and a national workshop on BHR in PNG. As part of this broader strategy, BHRRC is supporting communities and

individuals negatively impacted by businesses, OHCHR-ROP is convening regional Pacific BHR Forums and PIANGO is building the capacity of its member organisations across the Pacific.

A key focus in this program the intersection of the environment and human rights, including in relation to Deep Sea Mining (DSM), fisheries, mining, logging and palm oil. It is notable that a safe and healthy environment has now been recognised as a human right. The focus on climate change and human rights and the SDGs also highlighted that the most critical period for action was the years leading up to 2030. Every government and business decision has to factor in climate impacts if the SDGs and commitments on reducing carbon are to be realised. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provide the basis for partnership between government and business.

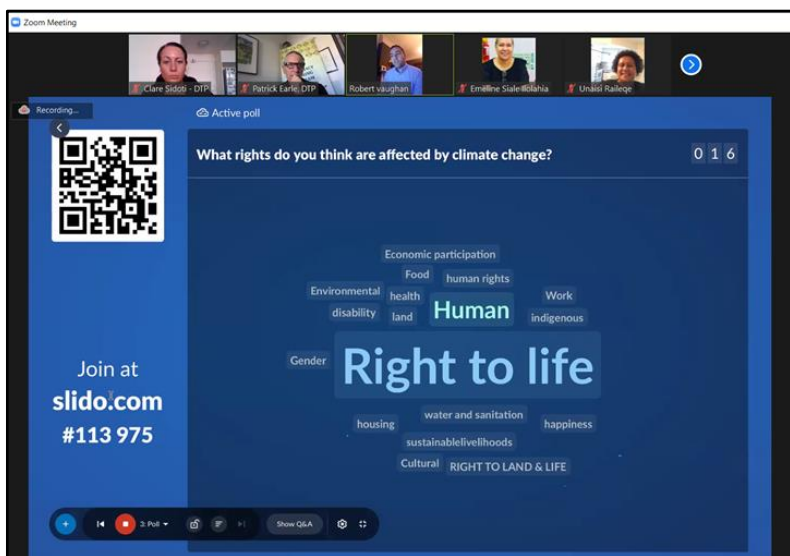
“Loved it so much because I got to learn new things and the topics are relevant to what is happening in my country”

Georgina Naigulevu, Fiji

2. Background and Context: Why this Training?

The health and economic crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the existential threat of climate change pose acute challenges to Pacific island states - and to realising the SDGs. Pacific island governments will be looking for international investment and will be relying on the private sector as they look to “build back better” from these crises.

This online program, coinciding with the 10th Anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), took place in the lead-up to COP 26 in Glasgow. COP 26 and the SDGs require government and business to act together in partnership, with urgency. The UNGPs provide a framework for that partnership.



Global frameworks and guidelines on responsible and sustainable business practices, human rights and climate change can ensure that the Pacific region “builds back better” following the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. Under the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights \(UNGPs\)](#), states have a duty to protect and businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and both have a role in providing access to effective remedies. Moreover, the SDGs emphasise partnership and the Paris

Agreement mandates reductions in carbon and environmental impacts, including from extractive industries. These frameworks provide governments, investors and business with guidance to make decisions.

Knowledge and understandings of these commitments and frameworks, and their interconnectedness is limited. This contributes to the risks that negative human rights and climate impacts will not be considered in key decision-making process. These risks are increased in the context of COVID-19 with increased global competition for natural resources in the Pacific, and increased need by Pacific governments for foreign direct investment. The climate emergency, and the urgency to reduce emissions requires joined up decision making by government and business.

Extractive industries, including deep sea mining, forestry and fisheries, as well as infrastructure and tourism are impacting communities. Women, children and persons living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to negative impacts. The UNGPs have the potential to ensure that economic development is inclusive and is economically and environmentally sustainable, but there is very limited awareness of the UNGPs and how to apply them.

With increased knowledge and understandings of these frameworks, Pacific civil society is better placed to engage in informed policy dialogue and advocacy to defend and promote their human rights.

“Though I know the term Human Rights, SDGs, UNGPs my knowledge was shallow. After attending all 8 sessions, I now know well all these terms & how very useful I can apply them”

Bafiguo Don, PNG

3. Program Content and Description

Eight 1.5-hour sessions were held over the four weeks, with participants expected to engage in a further sixteen hours of offline activity. The program began with an introduction to business and human rights and the respective duties/responsibilities of governments and business to protect, respect and remedy human rights. There was a focus on the responsibility of business to have a clearly articulated human rights policy and to have clear processes of due diligence to ensure that they are not causing, contributing to or directly linked with human rights harms. The importance of a gender analysis and understanding the differing risks, vulnerabilities and impacts on women was highlighted with reference to the [gender guidance of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights \(UNWG\)](#).

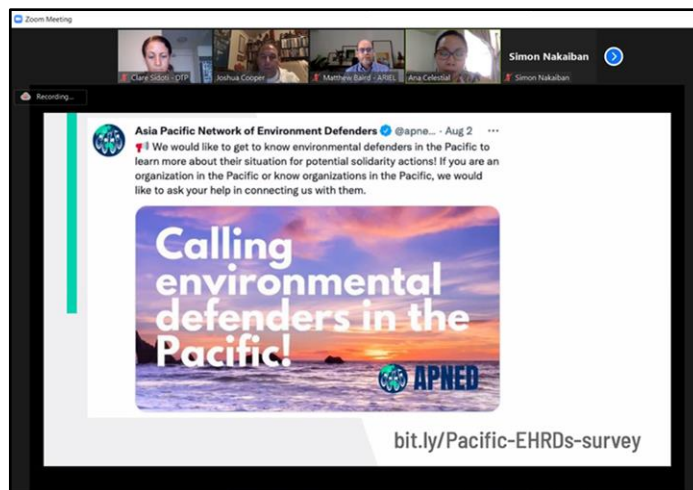
There was a session dedicated to the connections between the SDGs and the UNGPs – and to understanding the perspectives of the private sector and how they engage with these frameworks.

The right to access remedy when harms are done is the third pillar of the UNGPs. This is a responsibility for both state and business.

The OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) provides one of the few avenues currently available to communities to seek access remedies across borders. A recent case involving [Rio Tinto's Panguna copper mine in Bougainville](#) provides one example of how this complaints mechanism works. Its emphasis is on mediation – with government encouraging business to come

to the table to address grievances. The OECD Guidelines include content on human rights, the environment, corruption, labour and consumer rights.

The emphasis on interconnected and mutually reinforcing frameworks continued with a focus on climate change commitments. The science has made it increasingly clear that the [biggest global threat to human rights is climate change](#). There are also risks that responses to climate change, the need for new low emission technologies and fuel sources will increase risks for some communities – through deep sea mining, and deforestation for palm oil.



International human rights standards and international environmental law have evolved along different paths, informed by the advocacy of different movements, but increasingly there is an understanding of their interconnectedness. This includes through recognition of the human right to a healthy environment, and the human rights of environmental defenders – to be able to protest and defend their lands, cultures and communities safely.

Advocacy Tip: If you have a concern about a particular company – or wish to engage it in dialogue, have a look at its website for its policy commitments/human rights policy. You can quote these in your advocacy,

The program was informed by the perspectives and examples of participants that were generously shared.

A session focused on the UN’s human rights accountability and reporting processes – as well as how to access support and solidarity from BHRRRC and other international NGOs. The need for credible, verifiable information was emphasised.

“The topics were logically sequenced, starting from a broad overview then zooming into more ground experiences. I also like the mix of resource persons and their expertise. Lastly, the chance for participants to share actual experiences was very good.”

[Cite your source here.]

4. Participants

There was an open application process for this program. The program partners disseminated the program brochure widely through their respective networks. Participants were selected from over 80 applications. Selection criteria included country and gender balance, relevance of the training,

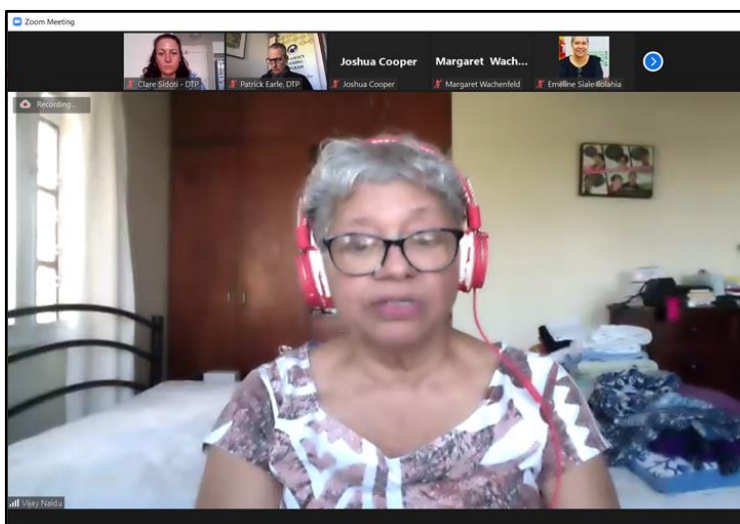
and capacity to participate and apply the training. Over 30 participants from 15 Pacific Island nations were selected from civil society (CSO), government institutions and business organisations. The majority work with CSOs. DTP thanks the participants for sharing their views and perspectives. See appendix for list of participants.



5. Trainers and Training Methodology

Due to COVID 19 and travel restrictions, this program transitioned to being online. A five-day intensive residential program was delivered through 8 x 90 minute sessions held over four weeks. The disadvantages of online include reduced depth and engagement between participants and with trainers/facilitators. Advantages include wider reach of participants and a longer period of engagement with participants that enables individual issues to be raised and returned to, for links and further reading to be shared more.

DTP's trainers are experienced local, regional and international human rights practitioners, academics, and experts who believe in the philosophy of participatory training. Professor Surya Deva, Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Justine Nolan, Amy Sinclair and Joshua Cooper were among the program trainers. The organisers recognise and value the experiences and skills that participants bring to such programs. The training used an accessible and user-friendly online platform, with a combination of lectures, presentations, webinars, videos, exercises and group activities between sessions. Interaction and sharing experiences and lessons with others was actively encouraged.



“...the facilitators were so passionate and giving with their knowledge and experiences...”

Maria Vanuaca, Fiji

6. Monitoring and Evaluation and Feedback

After each session participants were sent a feedback form which sought their evaluation of the session and their feedback to guide the program. At the end of the program all of the participants were requested to fill in an end of training evaluation form. Feedback and evaluation forms asked a number of quantitative and qualitative questions.

The feedback from the participants was very positive. Levels of awareness and understanding were increased. Participants were able to relate the course content to their concerns and the issues they are working on. Building awareness and understanding is a necessary first step in promoting implementation of human rights standards, and enabling advocacy for implementation. The impacts of building knowledge and understanding needs to be measured over a longer timescale.

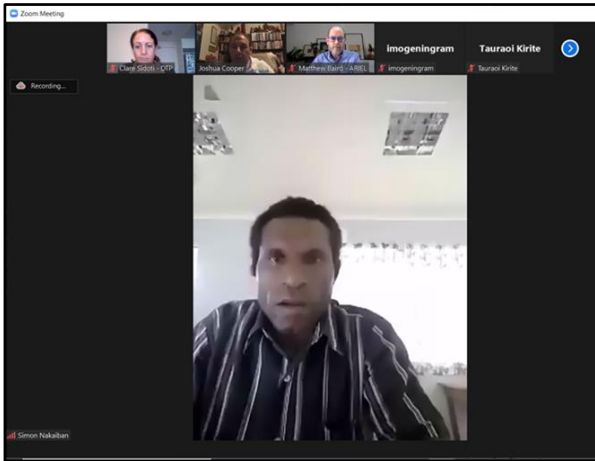
“Very good. I followed well and learnt a lot. All speakers very good. Thanks.”

Jennifer Ligo, Vanuatu

7. Lessons Learned and Next Steps

This was the second online course on Business and Human Rights, and the SDGs. It is clear that there is still very limited awareness of the UNGPs in the Pacific. The increase in the number of applications for this program was welcomed and is an indicator of need and interest.

Delivering this course online enables wide participation from across the Pacific and can be effective at engaging a wide diversity of participants. Applications and participation from some of the smaller and more isolated Pacific island nations has been one of the benefits of online delivery of the program. Whether this translates to residential programs is yet to be seen. However, all partners are keen to continue the broader Pacific participation in the program and subsequent network. Going forward it appears likely that a variety of capacity building programs will be offered: residential, online and hybrids. What these all look like and how they are connected is something the partners need to grapple with over the next year.



Extending the program over a number of weeks enables participants the time to engage with the material, to undertake assignments, do their own reading and connect with each other. The amount of content to be delivered is in tension with the amount of participation that is possible within 90-minute sessions. Partners have only explored offerings over a 4-week period to date. Feedback from a number of participants in this program indicated an interest in the program running longer with more sessions. The feasibility of this would need to be explored, along with actual interest and retention but could be an option.

Following the 2019 residential program in Fiji, a fledgling *Pacific Business and Human Rights Network* was established incorporating participants from the previous programs. The onset of the pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns and travel restrictions has curtailed the development of this network. The interest from across the Pacific in the two online BHR programs and growing requests for knowledge and sharing of best practice advocacy illustrates the need for the network and the partners are keen for this to develop. It is hoped that activities and engagement can increase as COVID restrictions ease.

The increased focus on international environmental law and on climate change is a positive evolution for course content. International and national environmental law provides valuable tools for community advocates to use and this was highlighted by examples from participants. The commitments at COP 26 will need to be integrated into SDG planning and may provide valuable leverage for advocates concerned at the impacts of deforestation, mining and fishing.

The UNGPs with their focus on the responsibilities of both government and business is an important and strategic way to build understanding and dialogue on human rights and sustainable development in the Pacific. Capacity building programs provide a vital opportunity for enabling this dialogue to take place – and for all involved to learn together and share perspectives. DTP needs to consider how to engage more participants from business and government at the same time as increasing the reach to CSOs who are at risk.



It is also clear from these and previous programs that participants draw a distinction between local businesses in the Pacific, and the businesses that come from outside the Pacific islands – those investing in the extractive industries in particular. These businesses/investors from outside the Pacific are seen as extracting resources and benefits with lasting negative consequences on the environment and local communities in the Pacific. How to ensure the positive impact of much needed investment in the economies of the Pacific is a major challenge, one that the COVID 19 pandemic has made more acute.

“The course is very useful and there were so much content provided which was good. I also like that the organizers provide materials in a timely manner and also providing the recording right after the class. I also like that participatory nature of the course and being able to share experiences, while also maximising the chatbox for questions that are immediately addressed. I hope for the next run, there will be more experiences in other Asian regions (Southeast Asia, South Asia, etc) - though of course understandable that the course is largely focused on the Pacific.”

[Cite your source here.]

8. Program Funding

This program was funded by OHCHR-ROP – with funding support provided also by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Australian donors to the DTP. It would not have been possible without the generous pro-bono contributions of DTP’s trainers who share DTP’s belief in the value of investing in community advocates.

9. About Program Partners

The **Diplomacy Training Program (DTP)** is an independent NGO affiliated with the University of New South Wales providing practical training in human rights and advocacy in the Asia-Pacific region.

The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Regional Office for the Pacific (OHCHR-ROP)** aims to ensure that the protection and enjoyment of human rights is a reality in the lives of all people. It provides assistance in the form of technical expertise and capacity-development in order to support the implementation of international human rights standards on the ground.

The **Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)** is the major Pacific regional non-governmental organisation with membership in 23 countries and territories of the Pacific Islands. For over 25 years, PIANGO has served the Pacific through strengthening and building the capacity of the civil society sector.

The **Citizens’ Constitutional Forum (CCF)** is an NGO based in Suva with more than 10 years’ experience in community education and advocacy on democracy, human rights and multiculturalism.

The **Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)** is a non-profit organisation that works to advance human rights in business through strengthening corporate accountability, building transparency, and helping empower advocates.

Appendix 1: Schedule Overview



Building Back Better - Business, Human Rights, the SDGs and the Climate Emergency in the Pacific Online Capacity Building Program August 2021

Week	Dates	Theme		Session 1		Session 2
Week 1	August 2 – 6, 2021	Introduction to Human Rights and Business in the Pacific 4.00 pm – 6.00pm – Suva Time	Tuesday	Tuesday, 3rd August: 4.00 pm – 6.00pm – Suva Time Business, Human Rights and the SDGs in the Pacific – 10 th Anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights - The Challenges Professor Surya Deva and Professor Justine Nolan	Thursday	Thursday, 5th August: 4.00 pm – 6.00pm – Suva Time UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights – The Three Pillars of Protect, Respect and Remedy Professor Surya Deva and Professor Justine Nolan
Week 2	August 9- 13 2021	Business & Human Rights		Tuesday, 10th August: 4.00 pm – 6.00pm – Suva Time UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights – what do they mean for Pacific businesses, workers, communities, consumers and investors – Panel Discussion		Thursday, 12th August: 4.00 pm – 6.00pm – Suva Time Access to Remedy – what does it mean, what options/approaches/experiences: OECD NCPs/NHRIs/Experiences of CSOs
Week 3	August 16-20, 2021	BHR & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Climate Change and Oceans		Tuesday, 17th August: (TBC) Suva Time Participant Recaps: Human Rights and Climate Crisis Connecting Frameworks and Action for Building Back Better		Thursday, 19th August: 4.00 pm – 6.00pm – Suva Time The UNGPs and the Extractive Industries – Deep Sea Mining, Mining, Forestry and Fishing
Week 4	August 23 -27	BHR in the Pacific – Processes of Accountability and Next Steps		Tuesday, 24th August: 4.00 pm – 6.00pm – Suva Time The UN and Human Rights Accountability Processes – An Introduction UPR, SPs, TBs, VNR & NDCs		Thursday, 26th August: 4.00 pm – 6.00pm – Suva Time Moving Forward – UNGPs and the SDGs –in the Climate Emergency - Mutually Reinforcing Frameworks

Appendix 2: Participants

First Name	Last Name	Country	Organisation
Aatika	Patel	Fiji	Individual
Abigail Lois	Aguilar	Philippines	Greenpeace Southeast Asia
Adi Losana	Bulamaibau	Fiji	Alliance for Future Generations (AFG) & Self
Ah Moon	Timan	Kiribati	St Paul Catholic Communication Centre (St Paul CCC)
Ambrose	Kwaramb	Papua New Guinea	National Department of Health
Andrew	Higa	Solomon Islands	Anomera tribe Conservation Association
Asilika	Masikolikoli	Fiji	University of the South Pacific Human Rights Alumni Association
Aydah	Akao	Solomon Islands	Network for the Indigenous peoples Solomons
Bafiguo	Don	Papua New Guinea	Angau Memorial Provincial Hospital
Bal	Tema	Vanuatu	Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC)
Broderick	Mervyn	Fiji	Ignite4Change
Camilus	Liaia	Papua New Guinea	Napapar Turguvai Association – Kerevat Township customary Landowners Association. International Training Institute
Debbie	Whippy	Fiji	Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation
Eleala	Avanitele	Tuvalu	Tuvalu Red Cross Society
Elizabeth	Nootai	Cook Islands	Cook Islands Office of the Ombudsman
Felix	Taora Mimira	Papua New Guinea	PNG Air Ltd
Georgina	Naigulevu	Fiji	Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society
Helen	Mangula	Papua New Guinea	Eden Empowerment Association Inc.
Imogen	Ingram	Cook Islands	Koutu Nui O Te Kuki Airani
Isabelle	Gurney	Fiji	Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development
Jennifer	Ligo	Vanuatu	Vanuatu Women Against Crime And Corruption (Wacc) Ngo (Volunteer)
Joel	Abraham	Fiji	Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission
Josaia	Osborne	Fiji	Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations (PIANGO)
Kata	Pulusi	Tuvalu	Tuvalu Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.
Laiakini	Waqanisau	Fiji	Will Ventures Pte Ltd
Maraia	Vanuaca	Fiji	Office of the President, Fiji
Maria	Temalesi	Fiji	The Society for the Indigenous Women of the Cakaudrove Province, Fiji
Mark	Ibak	Papua New Guinea	Lae Lutheran Youth
Marvin	Kaea	Solomon Islands	Makira Ulawa Provincial Government (MUPG)
Meli	Bitu	Fiji	MB2 CONSULTANCY
Michael	Bleasdale	Australia	Rights & Inclusion Australia
Milika	Baukitoga	Fiji	Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)

Mohammed	Al-Dousary	Fiji	UN Association of Fiji UNAF
Montin	Romone	Vanuatu	Montreal Van Java Limited
Nid	Satjipanon	New Zealand	New Zealand Human Rights Commission
Raynold	Tonny	Vanuatu	Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC)
Riyad	Mucadam	Marshall Islands	Research Education Community Organization
Rosa	Mataeliga	Samoa	Caritas Samoa
Rosie	Catherine	Fiji	Havilah Talanoa
Samantha	Lanyon	Fiji	Ministry of Lands
Sarah	Garap	Papua New Guinea	Meri I Kirap Sapotim (Women awaken support!)
Simon	Nakaiban	Papua New Guinea	Kairak Vudal Resource Training Centre,(Integrated Agriculture Training Program)
Sioneheke	Leolahi	Niue	Niue Island (Umbrella) Association of NGOs (NIUANGO)
Sonny	Lamge	Papua New Guinea	Delegation of the European Union to Papua New Guinea
Sylvia	Kloulubak	Palau	Belau Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (BANGO)
Tauraoui	Kirite	Nauru	Ministry of Education Nauru
Tepola	Rabuli	Fiji	Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding
Teresa	Drecala	Tuvalu	Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA)
Tokannuka	Tumairang	Fiji	Rabi Council of Leaders
Unaisi	Raileqe	Fiji	Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding
Waisea	Vosa	Fiji	Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation
William	Waqavakatoga	Fiji	The University of the South Pacific (Laucala Campus)

Appendix 3: Trainer Biographies

Amy Sinclair, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

Amy Sinclair is an international lawyer, researcher and advisor on Human Rights and Business. She is the Regional Representative for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific of the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, an international NGO that tracks the human rights impacts of companies worldwide. Amy has worked extensively in the not-for-profit sector as an adviser to NGOs and public bodies on business and human rights law, policy and advocacy. Amy is dedicated to raising awareness of human rights issues and educating human rights advocates. She is a regular public speaker and media commentator on developments Human Rights and Business law and policy.

Claire Slatter, Academic at University of the South Pacific

Claire Slatter taught Politics in the (then) Department of History/Politics at USP for 17 years before moving with her family to Wellington for three years. On her return she joined the Fiji Institute of Technology to help set up and teach mandatory ethics units. When FIT and other national tertiary institutions combined to form the Fiji National University a year later, she was appointed Head of the School of Social Sciences, and oversaw the establishment of undergraduate programmes in history and geography. She returned to USP in February 2012, where she joined the School of Government, Politics and International Affairs, teaching both postgraduate courses in the Governance Programme and undergraduate courses in Politics and International Affairs. Claire's research interests include global development policy debates, the politics of economic and trade liberalization in the Pacific region, the implications and impacts of sectoral 'reforms' in Pacific Island states, and the economic rights of Pacific women. Claire has been actively involved in NGO work nationally and internationally. She is a founding member of the Citizens' Constitutional Forum of Fiji which was originally established to build consensus on a democratic constitutional settlement after the 1987 coups. She is also a founding member (and current Board Chair) of the South-based feminist network of scholars and activists, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

Emeline Siale, Executive Director of PIANGO

Emeline Siale Ilolahia is the Executive Director of PIANGO and has a strong history of over 10 years of experience and track record in promoting sustainable growth and social development in the Pacific region and a reputation for developing strong partnerships within the civil society sector. She has exposure in regional and global advocacy. In her previous role as Executive Director of the Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Siale was instrumental in bringing together and supporting coalitions working on issues as diverse as ethical leadership, women's access to finance, women's leadership and political participation, and deep-sea mining. Siale was awarded an inaugural Jose Edgardo Campos Collaborative Leadership Award in Washington DC in 2016, in recognition of her contributions to local leadership efforts in Tonga. She holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of the South Pacific, Graduate Diploma in Non-For-Profit Management from Unitec, New Zealand, and Graduate Diploma in Public Sector from Massey University, New Zealand.

John Southalan, Independent Examiner (Australian National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises)

John Southalan is a lawyer, mediator and academic based in Perth, Australia. He also has the part-time role managing and conciliating complaints under the OECD Guidelines, with the

Australian National Contact Point (AusNCP). Separate to that work, John's legal practice and academic work focusses on the extractive sector, government regulation and human rights. He has previously worked with NGOs in Australia and Thailand, Dundee University, the Australian Human Rights Commission, and Corrs Chambers Westgarth. John writes on issues of Indigenous land rights, mining regulation, and human rights. E: Secretariat@ausnccp.gov.au (AusNCP) and john@southalan.net

Joshua Cooper, Academic in Human Rights, USA

Joshua Cooper teaches at the University of Hawaii as well as guest lecturing at the National University of Ireland, and University of the District of Columbia and the International Training Center for Teaching Peace and Human Rights in Geneva. He lectures in political science and journalism, non-violent social movements, ecological justice in Oceania and Indigenous peoples' rights. Joshua has also had a number of leadership and supervisory roles, including as an Asia Pacific Leadership Program Fellow at the East-West Center, Board member of Peace Action, the Human Rights Task Force for the United National Association of the USA. Joshua has also been selected to work with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore on The Climate Project.

Justine Nolan, Director, Australian Human Rights Institute, UNSW, Australia

Justine is the Director of the Australian Human Rights Institute and a Professor in the Faculty of Law at UNSW Sydney. Justine's research focuses on the intersection of business and human rights, in particular, corporate responsibility for human rights and modern slavery. She teaches international human rights law and related courses on global law, development, globalisation and business and human rights. Prior to joining UNSW in 2004, she worked as the Director of the Business and Human Rights program at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now Human Rights First) in the USA. This work examined ways in which to prevent and redress corporate violations of human rights. During this time Justine advised both companies and non-governmental organisations on effective strategies to protect human rights in the corporate sphere and was closely involved in the establishment of the Fair Labor Association. Justine is a member of the Australian Government's Modern Slavery Expert Advisory Group and advise companies, governments and civil society on human rights issues.

Margaret Wachenfield, Managing Director, Themis Research; Senior Research Fellow, IHRB

Margaret is an international lawyer and policy adviser with expertise and experience in applying and linking key international developments and standards related to human rights, human development, good governance, extractives, environment, and climate change to the work of international organisations and the private sector. As a senior research fellow, Margaret is the focal point for IHRB's work in East Africa and the research lead for IHRB's work with the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business. Margaret started her career as legal counsel to the Danish Institute for Human Rights. After practicing law in a commercial firm, focusing on environmental and corporate responsibility issues, she joined the International Finance Corporation (IFC) (World Bank Group) to work on environmental and social dimensions of project finance transactions and later served as the principal human rights advisor at the IFC. More recently, Margaret was senior policy advisor to UNICEF, covering a wide range of child rights issues. Margaret has a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in biology from Wellesley College, a juris doctor (JD) and masters in international and comparative law (LLM) from Duke University School of Law and a PhD in law (licentiat) from the University of Copenhagen.

Matthew Baird, Director, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law

Matthew Baird has over 32 years experience in environmental and planning law in Australia. Matthew was Chair of the Environment and Planning Law Group of the Law Council of Australia from 2008-2012, Australia's peak body representing the legal profession in Australia. He is a member of LAWASIA's Committee on Environmental Law and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL). Matthew has consulted to the Asian Development Bank, UN Environment, UNDP, WWF, and Vermont Law School in Myanmar, providing capacity building and training on EIA to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation of Myanmar and on ESG to the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry. He led one of the first training programs on environmental law and advocacy in Myanmar in October 2012 and has remained engaged on environmental law in Myanmar since that time until the recent coup. He has worked widely in South-East Asia on environmental law and environmental impact assessment. In September 2016, he was appointed as **Visiting Scholar** of the Myanmar Environmental Governance Program of Vermont Law School. He is a **Honorary Research Fellow** at the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business and a **Fellow** of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

Patrick Earle, Executive Director of Diplomacy Training Program

Patrick Earle has over 20 years' experience working in the human rights movement, both in Australia and internationally. Since 2003 Patrick has been the Executive Director of the Diplomacy Training Program, and in this role has developed and facilitated over 50 human rights courses in the region – including new thematic courses focusing on human rights business, human rights and migrant workers and the rights of Indigenous peoples. From 1996 until 2003, Patrick worked with the Human Rights Council of Australia with a focus on its ground-breaking project on the relationship between human rights and development and is co-author of "The Rights Way to Development – Policy and Practice". Prior to that he worked for Amnesty International in London and produced their first International Campaigning Manual.

Robert Vaughan, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR-ROP, Fiji

Robert is a human rights officer at the United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He holds a BA in Business and Combined Studies and an MA in International Development Studies. As a human rights officer, he has worked in a number of OHCHR country and regional offices, including; Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia, Thailand, South Sudan, and in the OHCHR headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Whilst in the field he has conducted first-hand monitoring and investigating into human rights violations and abuses. As geographical desk officer in Geneva Robert has covered over 60 countries, in all regions of the globe, and provided specialised support to the Special Rapporteurs of Myanmar, Cambodia, and Israeli and the Occupied Palestine Territories. He has also conducted thematic work / reports in the areas of; the right to food, land and housing rights, business and human rights; social inequality; the rights of peasants and rural people; and children deprived of liberty. Robert is currently based in OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) and is the focal point for climate change, environment, migration, business and human rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

Roger (Rocky) Guzman, Deputy Director, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law

Roger Joseph (Rocky) Guzman is the Deputy Director of the Asian Research Institute for

Environmental Law. He is an environmental lawyer and policy specialist with extensive background on oceans issues. Rocky has worked and conducted research on topics from fisheries management and plastic pollution to marine conservation and strengthening the rule of environmental law. He was previously the legal policy campaigner of Oceana Philippines, and has worked in different marine issues for Southeast Asia with the Asian Development Bank, UN Environment Programme and the Sustainable Ocean Alliance.

Surya Deva, Professor, City University, Hong Kong, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

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