

## Media Release 12 July 2021: *Preventing the 'Pacific Plunder' through business and human rights education*

SYDNEY / SUVA (12 July 2021) The [Diplomacy Training Program](#) (DTP) in partnership with the [Pacific Regional Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (OHCHR ROP), [Pacific Island Association of NGOs](#) (PIANGO), the [Business and Human Rights Resource Centre](#) (BHRRC), the [Citizens' Constitutional Forum](#) (CCF) is offering their second online capacity building program for civil society, business and government on Business, Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific to be held online in August 2021.

*"Building Back Better": Business, Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Climate Emergency in the Pacific* is delivered as part of a wider sub regional strategy of [the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights](#) and will feature key presentations from human rights experts and advocates on the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), the [OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises](#) and other human rights standards. Participants will share their experiences of working to protect their communities, land, and livelihoods from exploitation.

"We have seen the negative impact of mining and tourism development in the Pacific. Community members need to know how to effectively engage with government and business and hold them to account for their actions. This course provides them with the necessary tools to achieve this," said Louchrisha Hussain, CEO of CCF.

Businesses play an important role in development and community life throughout the Pacific, yet extractive industries are posing an unprecedented environmental and social threat to Pacific communities. The [Business and Human Rights Resource Centre](#) and [media](#) have been documenting cases involving fishing, forestry, mining as well as the tourism industry. Pacific communities are resisting the exploitation of their natural resources, highlighting the continuing need for Pacific led solutions to these challenges. There are growing social expectations that companies will contribute to meeting climate change targets, and promote the rights of women and persons with disability. Australia has adopted legislation that requires companies to report slavery risks in their supply chain.

"This course will equip our Pacific community leaders and civil society organisations with the tools and advocacy skills to form solidarity networks to ensure that business choices and practises of corporate companies that are violating human rights of our people will be something of the past," said Emeline Siale Ilohahia, Executive Director of PIANGO.

"This course is timely as we celebrate the strides made since the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human were endorsed 10 years ago and look to the challenges of the next 10 years," said Heike Alefsen, the Pacific Regional Representative for the UN Human Rights Office in Suva, Fiji.

This program is the latest in DTP's series of capacity building programs on the human rights responsibilities of business and the challenges of holding corporations accountable for their actions.

To find out more about the program and to apply, visit the DTP website at <https://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au/%E2%80%9Cbuilding-back-better%E2%80%9D-business-human-rights-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-and-climate>

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### **ABOUT THE 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.

**Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)** is the major regional non-governmental organisation with membership in 24 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.

The **UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights** is a strategic partner.