



**2023 Pacific Early Childhood Development (ECD) Forum**  
*Building a Resilient Pacific Through Early Childhood Development*

**2023 PACIFIC ECD FORUM OUTCOME**

***Early Moments Matter***

We, Ministers of Education, Health, Social Services and Finance Sectors, and our senior government representatives from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu gathered in Nadi, Fiji from 22 to 24 February 2023 for the 2023 Pacific Early Childhood Development (ECD) Forum,

Re-affirming the call of our Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' that securing the future of the Pacific cannot be left to chance; and supporting the regional collective expanded vision in the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*, for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, prosperity, spiritual and cultural wealth that ensures all Pacific peoples especially children and young people lead free, healthy, productive and happy lives,

Reinforcing the 2017 Pasifika Call to Action on Early Childhood Development which sets the strategic direction for ECD action in the region, and recognizing the Pacific Regional Council for ECD (PRC4ECD) as the regional governance mechanism whose mandate aligns and contributes to the realization of the *2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific Continent* and national development priorities,

Recognizing the 2018 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders commitment and expanding on the regional vision to lead a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, at the national level to address Early Childhood Development,

Acknowledging capacity gaps and resource constraints and hearing the need for increased investment, call on UNICEF and partners to strengthen and harmonize support for ECD through capacity-building and technical support, south-south cooperation, funding including climate financing, regional initiatives and for programmes in countries, and

Hereby, endorse Action Point 10 of the Pasifika Call to Action on ECD, to prioritize ECD as a pathway to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities to the effects of climate change and other emergencies; promote close collaboration between the areas of ECD and natural resources, environment and sustainable development; and commit to heightened advocacy for ECD in the global climate discourse and to call for global green financing mechanisms that allow for financing of ECD programmes and services.

Recognizing the need for a unified regional approach, commit to:

- Provide opportunities, strengthen mechanisms, frameworks and financial support for the inclusion and meaningful engagement and participation of children and young people irrespective of gender, abilities and other status within all policy making, planning and reporting processes at international, regional, national and sub-national level.
- Undertake coherent and coordinated multi-sectoral approach to planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation which is accessible and informed by relevant, reliable and comparable data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, residence, ethnicity and wealth.
- Support and enhance multi-sectoral platform to coordinate financing and investment through national public financial management systems that are evidence based and make best possible use of budgets, ensuring efficacy, build synergies for ECD programmes and services at international, regional, national and sub-national levels.
- Develop and strengthen robust ECD legislations and policies with costed action plan and monitoring and evaluation framework which are supported by well-resourced and functioning multi-sectoral coordinating mechanisms.
- Coordinate mechanisms that translate normative framework and commitments to affordable quality services and support for all children, young people and their families, with particular attention to the most marginalized and vulnerable, such as children with disabilities by integrating ECD and taking a holistic approach when delivering policies and programs.
- Provide critical comprehensive and quality support to parents, caregivers and communities; to nurture a loving, safe and caring environment that is grounded in our culture, values, knowledge, and faith, all of which are critical to child-rearing in the Pacific; and support systems for the most vulnerable and marginalized including early interventions for children and young people with disabilities.

### ***Conclusion***

We, Ministers of Education, Health, Social Services and Finance Sectors, and our senior government representatives from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, reiterate our commitment to providing a regional and collaborative approach in ECD to ensure *that No Child is Left Behind*.

We reiterate the call to all governments to accelerate implementation of the *Pasifika Call to Action on ECD* by undertaking measures that ensure the full and effective implementation of ECD frameworks.