



# Futuring Peace in Northeast Asia and the Pacific Strategic Foresight Youth Workshop Samoa, 25-26 March 2024

## Outcome Document // Youth Call to Action

In line with the Secretary-General's Common Agenda and the UN Security Council Resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#), [2419 \(2018\)](#), and [2535 \(2020\)](#) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA) and UNDP Samoa co-organized a strategic foresight youth workshop in Samoa with young peacebuilders and climate advocates from the Pacific and Northeast Asia regions, to create peer-learning platforms for engagement and to identify actionable ideas to step up peacebuilding efforts with an environmental lens.

Co-created by Youth for Youth, participants utilized strategic foresight tools to explore pathways to a peaceful, just, and sustainable future and transition in line with the 1.5 degrees Celsius benchmark in the Paris Agreement and important regional frameworks such as the Pacific Islands Forum Boe Declaration (2018) and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. They highlighted the urgent need for all actors to unite to decisively accelerate progress towards net zero emissions, in a just and equitable transition from fossil fuels to renewables and credible plan to phase out coal.

At the workshop participants engaged in a productive exchange with Government officials and Parliamentarians from Samoa and the wider region, as well as the UN system. They emphasized the need for dedicated spaces for meaningful youth participation. They called on Pacific governments to take active steps to include youth in government decision-making processes, including through Parliamentary mentorship programs and paid internships, the promotion of Youth Councils, and through supporting young negotiators, in particular female as part of government delegations to international, regional, and national fora, including the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP).

The participants aligned their below actionable ideas with frameworks such as the COP28 Global Youth Statement, the ESCAP Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) ministerial declaration on "Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific", the COP15 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), as well as the Naiuli Declaration for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty:



**1) Strengthening the role of a central repository for Pacific knowledge**, to encourage Pacific technology and evidence-based research, safeguard cultural values and traditional knowledge, and facilitate sustainable development. Expanding the role of existing platforms such as the Pacific Data Hub, facilitate closer links with various Pacific educational institutions such as the University of the South Pacific (USP) campuses, and strengthen partnerships with relevant Government ministries and the private sector would be needed. This collaboration could improve access to analysis and address challenges such as how to articulate the complexities of climate change in indigenous languages. It offers opportunities for capacity-building among youth and future generations, strengthens democratic processes, and supports individuals, organizations, and governments to make informed decisions on climate change-related issues. Consideration should be given to a mechanism that allows Pacific Islanders to access the central repository free of charge. Issues such as financial sustainability, bridging digital divides, ensuring equitable access, and the responsible storage of data, must be considered.

**2) Enhancing smart grid infrastructure development**, to provide reliable, robust, and appropriate technologies and sustainable energy solutions in the Pacific region. This would facilitate a transition to an integrated energy system that improves disaster resilience, minimizes power outages, and supports consumer participation in electricity markets in alignment with Sustainable Development Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 13 (Climate Action). Enhanced grid infrastructure offers opportunities to reduce dependence on imported fuels and boost local economic development. It could reduce reliance on foreign aid and supply and foster self-reliance and empowerment within local communities. While infrastructure requires upfront investments, cost-saving can be realized in the long term.

Targeted scholarship opportunities and specialized training programs focused on just transitions and feasible and sustainable energy infrastructure are needed to meet local capacity needs. Fostering exchanges, including with other regions through platforms such as the Pacific Power Association for Pacific Youth, is essential for building Pacific capacity and ensuring public awareness. National stakeholders in the Pacific should play a leading role in the process to ensure that smart grid implementation aligns with local contexts and benefits Pacific Islanders, including on EV technology, renewable-powered water solutions, solar infrastructure, waste-to-energy technology and more.





**3) Active and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources**, to overcome challenges of environmental degradation and anthropogenic destruction. This demands national enforcement of laws and policies along with regional governance. The full implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of global treaties such as the UN Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ Agreement, 2023) is vital. Strengthened collaboration between governments and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) is essential to support agreements impacting natural resources and tackle transnational environmental issues. Engaging local stakeholders, including community groups and traditional leaders, is imperative to incentivize and institutionalize sustainable practices, mitigate environmental harm, and address resistance and prevailing inequalities.

In this regard, governments should initiate gender-sensitive environmental awareness campaigns and educational initiatives in communities and institutions. Training programs should be co-created with local communities, leveraging their expertise and traditional ecological knowledge to identify best practices. Prioritizing youth involvement in decision-making processes and facilitating their meaningful engagement in national and regional foras is crucial.