

## HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME (SPC RRRT)

### Universal Periodic Review Project



Nauru UPR workshop with key stakeholders, August 2014

**Location:**

Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Palau, PNG

**Duration:**

2009 - ongoing

**Goal:**

The goal of this project is to build capacity within the Pacific to monitor and analyse progress towards compliance with international human rights standards and commitments at the national level through reporting and participation in the Universal Periodic Review process.

**Partners:**

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)  
Government ministries in PIFS member states  
Civil society groups in PIFS member states  
Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR)  
UN Women and UNICEF

**Success in numbers:**

To date, ten Pacific Island Countries have been supported by SPC RRRT together with other development partners to comply with the United Nation's Universal Periodic Review process. SPC RRRT contributed to national capacity development and good governance through extensive training, mock exercises, general advice and related technical assistance around reporting.

**Project details:**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a mandatory peer review mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council where the human rights record of each United Nations member State is reviewed on a periodic (every 4.5 years) basis.

RRRT provides support to Pacific Island governments and civil society organisations in conducting technical workshops on the UPR including assistance in the contents of reports as well as (if requested by States) the facilitation of mock reviews prior to the delegation's travel for the actual review which are held in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the first round of UPR reporting, RRRT assisted the states of Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The UPR has now entered its second reporting cycle and, so far, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati, FSM, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands have and are receiving support from RRRT.

The remaining countries that support will also be provided to are Samoa and Palau.

**Success in words:**

*'The training was very useful. It opened my eyes to the international dialogue that is ongoing in an effort to improve the human rights situations around the world. This training informed me extensively on the human rights status in my country. This training further highlighted the areas of improvement in my state with regards to human rights'* **FSM UPR workshop participant, September 2014**

*'All our members have gained a lot. We have come to understand the many conventions that Vanuatu has ratified...i.e. 107 in total. VANGO (Vanuatu's umbrella body for NGOs) will work with the Government to put together our country reports'* **Charlie Harrison, VANGO rep, 2013**

*'It is vital to let you know of our confidence in moving forward with our responsibilities and obligations towards UPR and other reports. The training has given us deeper insight of how the UN system and mechanism work around Human Rights issues more specifically on monitoring and evaluating state members on their roles under ratified Human Rights Treaties'* **Assistant Secretary, Kiribati Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs, 2014**