



Parliamentarians for Global Action

Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios

Action Mondiale des Parlementaires

“Enhancing Good Governance and the Rule of Law in the Pacific Islands – The Role of Parliamentarians”

Apia, Samoa

17-18 March 2008

PLAN OF ACTION

We, Parliamentarians from the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu gathered in Apia, Samoa undertake to explore how most effectively to promote good governance by:

1. Upholding the principles of good governance in ways that take full account of our respective national history, culture and traditions;
2. Developing regional mechanisms to strengthen Parliament as the key governance institution by increasing the opportunities for Parliamentarians to more regularly visit other Pacific Parliaments in addition to existing forums such as the Forum Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference and the Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development;
3. Promoting Parliamentarians to have a greater role in regional co-operation, unity and development;
4. Allowing Parliamentarians to act as drivers for change in promoting human development and human rights as ultimate objectives of good governance;
5. Creating or improving Codes of Conduct for both Ministers and Members of Parliament;
6. Developing laws and institutions that promote accountability and transparency;
7. Encouraging participatory democracy through increased interaction with the electorate and civil society organizations, and the use of new technologies with specific attention to rural outreach;
8. Entrenching greater transparency of government and Parliament, including public access to parliamentary records and facilitating increased broadcasting and media coverage; and
9. Seeking assistance for Pacific States in implementing the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

We resolve to meet again in 2009 in the region to consider:

- a. How good governance has been enhanced by Pacific Parliaments;
- b. How international treaty commitments are most appropriately achieved in Pacific States; and
- c. How Pacific Parliaments can promote best practice and assistance to the Civil Power.

Done in Apia, 18 March 2008