



CSOs and NGOs working for Human Rights¹

Name of Organisation: Pacific Islands Association of Nongovernmental Organisation (PIANGO)

Website of Organisation: <http://www.piango.org/>

Facebook of Organisation: <https://www.facebook.com/piango.comms/>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

PIANGO's aim is to better the interests and well-being of the people in the Pacific Islands through establishing an NGO network, providing effective support to NGOs in the Pacific and promoting the recognition of CSOs' role in influencing sustainable development. This is done through the organisation's five areas of focus - Action Research & Policy Advocacy, CSO Capacity Strengthening, Development Effectiveness, Pacific Developmental Leadership and Strengthening CSO Platform in the Pacific.

In 1991, the first PIANGO Council was held. The concept for PIANGO stemmed from the increased networking among the Pacific Island NGOs in the late 1970s. Various factors such as geographic distance and communication barriers made effective networking a challenge. With the establishment of PIANGO, NGOs in the Pacific Islands are able to strengthen and increase the capacity of the civil society sector, and foster relations with other regional organisations.

PIANGO's goals:

- To facilitate active networking among NGOs at all levels;
- To promote and enable access to sharing and dissemination of information, ideas, experiences and resources among NGOs;
- To educate the NGOs to better understand, fulfil and develop their roles and functions, and strengthen their organisations and program capacities;
- To assist in identifying, monitoring and analysing the needs of the people in the Pacific islands;
- To provide a means for a collective voice and action on issues of concern to NGOs and the people they serve; and
- To cooperate with other networks and organisations that have similar objectives.

In 2014, PIANGO conducted a roundtable meeting with national actors in the Melanesian and Polynesian sub-regions to provide an opportunity for the actors to analyse ways to strengthen CSOs' capacity to adapt to developmental changes.

PIANGO also played a key role in Beyond 2015, a global civil society campaign lobbying for a stronger and better successor to the Millennium Development Goals.

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 3000 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote human rights more broadly.