

Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population & Development



Pacific Conference of Parliamentarians for
Advocacy on ICPD Beyond 2014

13-15 August 2013

Fiji

Background



- Established in 1997 through a UNFPA funded project with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to encourage dialogue and help forge political will to address population and development (P&D) issues in the region.



Background cont'd



- Since 1997 PPAPD's work has focused heavily on facilitating meetings of parliamentarians to discuss P&D issues. Although PPAPD initially pursued its work through ordinary MPs, over the years, it was recognized that the involvement of Pacific Speakers would strengthen PPAPD's leadership. Accordingly, the PPAPD Executive Board comprised five Speakers of Pacific parliaments

Background

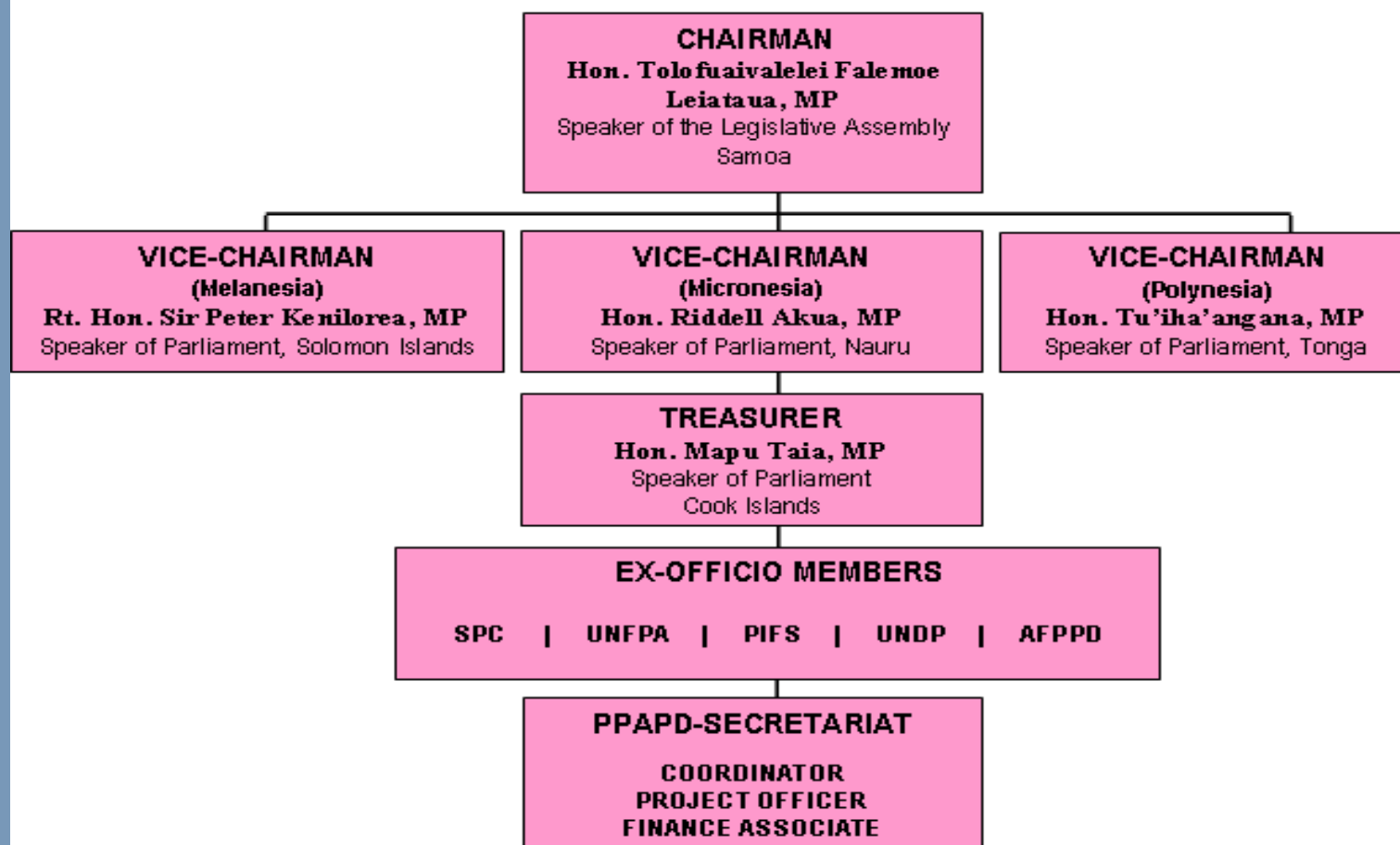


- PPAPD had an Executive Board, as described in Diagram 1 supported by a Secretariat, staffed by a Coordinator
- The Secretariat was originally housed at the Fiji Parliament, but moved to Noumea following the 2006 coup.
- PPAPD developed a constitution

PPAPD Governance



Diagram 1: PPAPD Executive Board



Mission & Objectives



Mission:

- To improve the living standards, security and well-being of peoples in the Pacific by promoting practical actions by parliamentarians on P&D issues.

Objectives:

- Promote good governance, transparency, accountability and sustainable development of the region's natural resources in relation to P&D;
- Promote the interests of Pacific Island Countries in various world fora, focusing on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Millennium Development Goals;
- Encourage parliamentary and other activities aimed at facilitating P&D policies to improve the living standards, security and well-being of peoples in the Pacific

Outputs



- A biennial regional conference was the flagship output of PPAPD.
- Conference on HIV/AIDS was held in 2005
- Conference on Youth was held in 2007.
- Each produced action plans which the PPAPD Project was tasked with implementing.
- Conducted a number of national awareness raising activities with MPs in countries.

Forum for Presiding Officers & Clerks FPOC



- An Initiative of UNDP & PIFs
- FPOC had no Executive Board - the host of each upcoming FPOC Conference was recognized as the Chair of FPOC.
- In the very early stages of FPOC, the UNDP GOLD Project supported the organization of meetings. From around 2005, support moved to PIFS.
- PIFS provided support to the organization of FPOC Conferences, though the national parliamentary secretariat of the country hosting the Conference also performed some secretariat functions.

FPOC cont'd



- FPOC and PPAPD both work with the same constituents. They were also both directed at supporting Speakers and parliamentarians to more effectively engage in national development activities to promote good governance and participatory development.
- In 2007, both the members of FPOC and PPAPD recognized in their separate meetings that consideration could be given to promoting closer collaboration between the two organizations.

FPOC cont'd



- By 2008, FPOC had held six FPOC Conference, almost one every year since its inception.
- The FPOC Conferences have been organised by different national parliaments.
- At the Conference, a Retreat for Speakers and Clerks only is usually held, followed by an open plenary meeting, which has often included invited resource people.
- Communiqués have been produced at the conclusion of each FPOC. The Communiqués have often included Action Points, to be taken forward between Conferences.

Merge of PPAPD & FPOC



- In November 2007, the Executive Board of PPAPD, which comprised five of the 15 Speakers who are members of FPOC, met.
- Among other issues, the Board discussed the recommendations from the May 2007 FPOC Conference and PPAPD Meeting to promote collaboration between FPOC and PPAPD.
- The decision of the PPAPD Executive Board to have a single Board for PPAPD and FPOC was endorsed in Samoa in Nov 2007

FPOC-PPAPD



- The existing Secretariat as the PPAPD/FPOC Secretariat, which will be responsible for supporting the combined PPAPD/FPOC Executive Board and the work of both PPAPD and FPOC.
- The PPAPD/FPOC Secretariat moved to SPC Suva from Noumea in 2008 to ensure the Secretariat was housed in one of the countries which is a member of FPOC/PPAPD, and was closer to the partner agencies which provide its funding and day-to-day operational management and guidance.
- Over time, once the Secretariat was fully developed and strengthened, it was envisaged that the Secretariat will eventually be housed within a Pacific legislature.

PPAPD-FPOC



- **PPAPD** to continue dealing with Population and Development issues, and
- **FPOCC** to promote good governance, transparency and accountability in the region.
- 1st Joint meeting was held in Honiara in Nov 2008 – Joint Communique’
- Next meeting was hosted by the Cook Islands in Sept 2009

Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance (PLPG)



- the establishment of the PLPG was the result of the merger of the Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (PPAPD) and the Forum of Presiding Officers and Clerks (FPOC) on 19 November 2009 – was also the last meeting
- commencement of operations of the Secretariat from the new PLPG Headquarters in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 1 July 2010, hosted by Govt of CKI-Comunique.
- UNFPA phased out assistance and directed to countries' PDGroups

Future Support for PDG

- How can you be supported?
- Nature of Support
- Actions required –immediate, mid – long term?
- Who can/should provide this support?

PLPG Executive 2011

Sir Geoffrey Arama
Henry KBE

Speaker, Parliament
of the Cook Islands,
Chairperson, PLPG
Executive
Committee 2011

