



Pacific Conference on The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis

February 10th-12th, 2010, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Introduction

The agenda of this Conference is designed so that the impacts of the global economic crisis on the vulnerable are highlighted from different perspectives across the Pacific and discussed in the context of progress towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.¹ The keynote address will provide a global perspective on the economic crisis. Plenary 1, which outlines the impact of the crisis in the Pacific, and the two Roundtables, which focus on country specificities and impacts at national and community-levels, will link regional benchmarks to country contexts. Plenaries 2 and 3, which follow the Roundtables, will consider what actions are being taken by countries to protect the vulnerable. The four parallel sessions on Labour, Education, Health and Food Security, and Governance and Legislative Agenda will consider the strategic responses required in each sectoral area and develop key recommendations for action at national and regional levels.

The objective of each session is outlined in the accompanying annotated agenda. Each delegation will be requested to make a 10 minute statement based on guidelines under either I (Roundtables A and B) or II (Plenaries 2 and 3). Each delegation is requested to forward the guidance notes for III (Parallel sessions A, B, C and D) to their representative attending the parallel sessions on Labour, Education, Health and Food Security, and Governance and Legislative Agenda so that possible responses could be considered. Each delegation will be requested to make a 3 minute statement in line with IV (Concluding statements by country delegations) in Plenary 7. All statements should take into account differences in impact and responses due to gender and human rights. Since all sessions are interactive, all delegations are encouraged to prepare for and make interventions under each agenda item. Presentation of prepared statements, however, will be limited to countries as invited below.

I. Roundtables A and B

A. Guidance note for presenters at Roundtable A

Delegations are requested to make a statement on the most significant impacts of the global economic crisis on economic growth, trade and employment at the national level during parallel Roundtable A on 10 February at 1400-1530 hours. The statement should be 10 minutes long (1000 words) and generally answer the issues noted below:

Changes in international trade and financial flows due to the crisis affected economic growth, trade and employment in countries of the Pacific. In this context, please:

¹ The vulnerable may be defined in terms of demographic (e.g., women, children, youth, elderly or persons with disabilities), geographic (e.g., urban, rural or atoll), or income and asset-related (e.g., unemployed, homeless or landless) criteria.

1. Assess the impact of the crisis on economic output, balance of payments, government revenue and expenditures, and employment, including transition to the informal economy and wage trends, due to changes, as applicable, in (1) tourism arrivals and revenue; (2) commodity exports owing to the decline in global commodity prices; (3) opportunities for overseas employment and resultant remittances, which comprise a significant share of international financial flows to countries of the Pacific; and (4) value of trust funds as well as variations in international financial flows;
2. Identify the financial, human and institutional constraints, including labour policies, which prevented your country from fully addressing the impacts of the crisis; and
3. Share lessons learnt from the impact of the crisis on economic growth, trade and employment, both positive and negative.

The following countries are invited to present: Cook Islands, Fiji and Tuvalu. It would be appreciated if you could please send the **first draft of the statement** and a **short biography** of the speaker to the secretariat (Caroline Scott at scott@ilo.org) by **15 January 2009**.

B. Guidance note for presenters at Roundtable B

Delegations are requested to make a statement on the most significant impacts of the global economic crisis on women, children and other vulnerable groups at the community level during parallel Roundtable B on 10 February at 1400-1530 hours. The statement should be 10 minutes long (1000 words) and generally answer the issues noted below:

The crisis has affected people, especially those with limited human and financial resources, in countries of the Pacific in 2007-2010. In this context, please

1. Assess the impact of the economic crisis, alongside commodity price fluctuations, on household income and expenditure, including consumption and savings as well as health, education and social welfare outcomes (e.g. violence against women and children);
2. Assess the impact on public sector programmes, especially in health, education and social welfare, due to changes in government revenue and expenditure, as reflected in the national budgets of these countries, as well as ODA disbursements;
3. Identify (a) who has been most affected by the crisis; (b) how widely and deeply they have been affected, in both economic and social terms, and (c) share lessons learnt on how the vulnerable can be protected. Where real time monitoring of the vulnerable (e.g. sentinel sites) has been established, please provide feedback on findings and lessons learnt.

The following countries are invited to present: The Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands. It would be appreciated if you could please send the **first draft of the statement** and a **short biography** of the speaker to the secretariat (Reiko Yoshihara at ryoshihara@unicef.org) by **15 January 2009**.

II. Plenaries 2 and 3

A. Guidance note for presenters at Plenary 2

Delegations are requested to make a statement on the most significant responses of your country to the impact of the global economic crisis during Plenary 2 on 10 February at 1600-1730 hours. The statement should be 10 minutes long (1000 words) and generally answer the issues noted below:

1. Provide a very brief summary of the impacts of the crisis on your country during the period 2007-2010;
2. Summarize policy responses that have been taken to address these impacts on the most vulnerable. If possible, please indicate relevance (has the most appropriate response been taken to address the impact of the crisis?), effectiveness (has the response addressed the issue?) and efficiency (has the response resulted from the most optimal use of available human, institutional and financial resources?) of the response. Where real time monitoring of the vulnerable (e.g. sentinel sites) has been established, please provide feedback on findings and lessons learnt.
3. Identify what constraints you have faced in implementing policies to protect the vulnerable and what more needs to be done.

The following countries are invited to present: Vanuatu, Samoa and the Marshall Islands. It would be appreciated if you could please send the **first draft of the statement** and a **short biography** of the speaker to the secretariat (Mereia Carling at mcarling@unicef.org) by **15 January 2009**.

B. Guidance note for presenters at Plenary 3

Delegations are requested to make a statement on the most significant responses of your country as a (1) resource-based economy; (2) tourism-based economy; (3) economy with high levels of remittances or (4) economy with high volume of aid to the impact of the global economic crisis during Plenary 3 on 11 February at 0900-1030 hours. The statement should be 10 minutes long (1000 words) and generally answer the issues noted below:

1. Provide a very brief summary of the impacts of the crisis on your country during the period 2007-2010;
2. Summarize policy responses that have been taken to address these impacts on the most vulnerable. If possible, please indicate relevance (has the most appropriate response been taken to address the impact of the crisis?), effectiveness (has the response addressed the issue?) and efficiency (has the response resulted from the most optimal use of available human, institutional and financial resources?) of the response.
3. Identify what constraints you have faced in implementing policies to protect the vulnerable and what more needs to be done.

The following countries are invited to present: Papua New Guinea, Palau, Tonga and Nauru. It would be appreciated if you could please send the **first draft of the statement** and a **short biography** of the speaker to the secretariat (Malie Lototele at milototele@adb.org) by **15 January 2009**.

III. Parallel working sessions

A. Guidance note for delegations at the parallel session on Labour

In light of country experiences previously discussed and policy advice offered during this session on formal and informal labour policy responses to the crisis on 11 February at 1400-1700 hours, delegates should prepare to discuss the following questions:

1. What responses and strategies could most efficiently and effectively be implemented by your government, development partners and other key stakeholders at the national level?

2. What responses and strategies could most efficiently and effectively be implemented by your government, development partners and other key stakeholders at the regional level?

B. Guidance note for delegations at the parallel session on Education

In light of country experiences previously discussed and policy advice offered during this session on education policy responses to the crisis on 11 February at 1400-1700 hours, delegates should prepare to discuss the following questions:

1. What responses and strategies could most efficiently and effectively be implemented by your government, development partners and other key stakeholders at the national level?
2. What responses and strategies could most efficiently and effectively be implemented by your government, development partners and other key stakeholders at the regional level?

C. Guidance note for delegations at the parallel session on Health and Food Security

In light of country experiences previously discussed and policy advice offered during this session on health and food security policy responses to the crisis on 11 February at 1400-1700 hours, delegates should prepare to discuss the following questions:

1. What responses and strategies could most efficiently and effectively be implemented by your government, development partners and other key stakeholders at the national level?
2. What responses and strategies could most efficiently and effectively be implemented by your government, development partners and other key stakeholders at the regional level?

D. Guidance note for delegations at the parallel session on Governance and the Legislative Agenda

In light of country experiences previously discussed and policy advice offered during this session on governance and the legislative agenda policy responses to the crisis on 11 February at 1400-1700 hours, delegates should prepare to discuss the following questions:

1. What responses and strategies could most efficiently and effectively be implemented by your government, development partners and key stakeholders at the national level?
2. What responses and strategies could most efficiently and effectively be implemented by your government, development partners and key stakeholders at the regional level?

IV. Guidance note for delegations during the Forward Looking Action / Policy Planning Session

Based on discussions during the conference, delegations are requested to consider how they will respond to the impact of the global economic crisis at the national level during this session on Policy Planning on 12 February at 1030-1230 hours.

During this session, delegates are **organized by country** and will consider how the conclusions of the preceding sectoral discussions and other recommendations made during the Conference can be implemented, given existing planning and budgeting frameworks and national sustainable development strategies. Delegates will specifically consider:

1. During the current crisis, what needs to be done to protect the vulnerable and maintain progress towards attainment of national priorities and the Millennium Development Goals in your country? In this context, what specific actions can be taken during 2010-2011?
2. What can be done to foster greater resilience in your country so that the vulnerable are protected and progress towards attainment of national priorities and the Millennium Development Goals are maintained in the event of a future crisis?

Delegations (excluding Timor Leste) are requested to deliver a 3-minute (300 word) statement in light of these discussions during Plenary 7 on Friday 12 February from 1400-1530 hours.