13th December 2016  A two days Regional Dialogue on (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions, (I)NDCs for the Pacific Islands was held in Nadi on the 6th – 7th December 2016, with close to 60 participants from the Pacific region attending.

The dialogue was co-organized by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, and the UNDP/UNEP Global Support Programme (GSP) for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Government of Fiji hosted the dialogue and was supported by a number of donors.

The dialogue convened with the following objectives - taking stock of submitted INDCs and initial NDCs from the region and provide a forum for exchanging country experiences and perspectives on preparing (I)NDCs and planning for implementation, including envisioned challenges and support needs; and discuss next steps and key technical and institutional issues related to NDC implementation at the national level.

On the first day of the dialogue, the UNFCCC Secretariat highlighted key provisions of the Paris Agreement relating to (I)NDCs, as well as relevant outcomes of COP-22 in Marrakech. UNDP provided an overview of submitted INDCs and initial NDCs, including trends from the region, in order to provide context for dialogue discussions. Tonga submitted its INDC on the 5th of December 2015 at COP-21 in Paris.

Following the first session, the facilitators then covered the Paris COP, submission of INDCs
and how there has been uncertainty around how to move from submitted INDCs to NDC implementation. The session then introduced a framework for planning for NDC implementation at the national level, drawing on NDC implementation guidance being developed by UNDP, the UNFCCC Secretariat, UNEP-DTU, and WRI. Samoa and Fiji then shared their national experiences in planning for NDC implementation.

The successful NDC implementation and monitoring of progress, as well as preparation of future NDC which require robust institutional arrangements was the focus of the third session. This session looked at improving coordination between relevant ministries and strengthening the capacity of institutions involved in NDC implementation. Additionally, how NDC implementations require concerted efforts to fully engage stakeholders (including local governments and the private sector) and improved national awareness of climate change goals was explored. In this session, panelists including a representative from Australia, Vanuatu, Tonga and Papua New Guinea shared their experiences and perspectives on how to address these challenges.

This final session on Day 1 discussed the development of adaptation interventions in the context of NDC implementation, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and monitoring and evaluation challenges. The role of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) in achieving mitigation goals, as well as linkages with low-emission development strategies was also covered. Furthermore, the session looked at the identification and prioritization of measures; technical analyses related to adaptation and mitigation options; and potential links between mitigation and adaptation in various sectors.

The second day of the dialogue began by looking at effective monitoring systems that is central to tracking progresses toward countries’ goals, as well as reporting on NDC progress as part of the Paris Agreement’s enhanced transparency framework. Countries intend to build on existing national monitoring systems where possible and seek out efficient mechanisms for linking to existing reporting efforts, such as those for the National Communications and Biennial Update Reports. Tuvalu and Federated States of Micronesia presented their plans for establishing/strengthening monitoring systems in the context of NDCs, opportunities for linking with other mechanisms and capacity development needs.

NDC implementation requires the development of funding strategies that comprehensively consider opportunities for mobilizing resources from: 1) national budgets and planned investments, 2) private sector investment, and 3) international sources (as needed for conditional NDC components). The session also provided participants with an opportunity to engage in interactive sharing about NDC finance and resource mobilization, including strategies
for attracting support from various sources.

The final session explored how NDCs represent an opportunity to catalyze sustainable development at the national level, as well as achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. This link with sustainable development must be front and center in NDC implementation planning. In this session, panelists from Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Palau and Niue provided their perspectives on the relationship between NDCs and national sustainable development, based on their national experiences. They also offered suggestions for making as concrete as possible the link between national NDC implementation planning and global progress toward the SDGs.

Tonga was represented at the Regional Dialogue by Ms. Lilu Moala and Miss. Akesiu Leua from the Department of Climate Change (MEIDECC) and Ms. Saane Lolo from Ministry of Finance and National Planning.

**Photo**: Participants at the Regional Dialogue on INDCs, for the Pacific Islands, Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi Fiji.

**(Photo: UNDP/Emily Moli)**