



Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Call to Action 2024



Solomon Islands

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Solutions in Asia and the Pacific with Young People at the Forefront

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Among the SDGs, we are moving towards achieving SDG 1, since poverty poses little threat to our developing country. Our people have been dependent on agriculture and fishing for daily subsistence. The underlying issue is just a matter of the lifestyle choice of individuals which drags people towards poverty. Having a pair of clothes is more than enough and basic herbal treatment has preceded our people throughout history without the necessity of needing to go to a medical centre for check-up. However, with the change of lifestyle due to westernisation certain recommendations are still necessary.

Climate change adaptation for SDG 13 is becoming non practical since each day a piece of our Islands is taken away by the rising sea levels. By 2030 some of these Islands will be gone already. Thus, what is the point of relocation as another 50 plus years or so, most islands would not exist anymore. There is still a lack of peaceful inclusivity as individuals are still marginalised based on various differences. Membership into youth climate action organisations requires having a diploma or a degree certificate. Thus, this cuts off the other youths who are out of school as well as those with disabilities. Additionally, being a member of most youth organisations is costly to join as well. Furthermore, geopolitics and corruption are also evident concerning issues in our country.



From a youth's perspective there is limited/lack of recognition and representation for Solomon Islands at a global scale which creates a barrier for networking with global organisations at global platforms. As a nation committed to sustainable development, the Solomon Islands has the opportunity to make significant strides towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To effectively address these goals, here are some recommendations for targeted action.

OUR KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

SDG 1: No Poverty

- In the Solomon Islands there is an uprising of homeless people roaming the streets yet almost everybody is turning a blind eye to the situation. Therefore, our government and other relevant stakeholders must invest in social protection programmes, build infrastructures, and provide care systems to support all vulnerable populations and empower rural communities through sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- It is also essential to promote the recognition, advocacy and utilisation of local raw materials and indigenous way of life. The cooperation of Government, indigenous communities, youths and researchers in this fight for this action is crucial for its success by working with our indigenous communities to encourage continuous indigenous agricultural and fishing practices via advocacy, awareness and implementation.
- Finally, prioritise poverty eradication by implementing inclusive economic policies that promote equitable access to resources, education, and healthcare for all.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

- Significantly, there is a need to enhance food security and nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture and fisheries practices via innovations of farming and aquaculture, diversifying crops, and improving access to markets and storage facilities at all levels. Moreover, there should be strengthening of partnerships between government, NGOs, and local farmers to boost agricultural productivity and ensure food sovereignty.
- Additionally, ensure the implementation of trainings and workshops which engage indigenous cohorts in the integration of sustainable indigenous fishing practices with both modern and traditional preservative techniques whereby fish caught sustainably from indigenous fishing methods can be preserved using the technique of tuna bottling for example. This will reduce the waste of fish since there is no proper storage and cooling facilities in the villages, extend shelf life and can be sold for income.
- In our country, vital food systems that support our people through time are dying and therefore need to be revived and documented. Therefore, recognising and encouraging Indigenous food systems by including it in the education curriculum will allow intergenerational transfer of important knowledge to the younger generation. Furthermore, this may also influence the constitution to be put in place.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

The Solomon Islands is striving towards becoming a country that offers equality for all genders but still progressing towards 100 percent gender equality as some people still have the colonial mindset of "women belong in the kitchen". Hence, there should be mandatory inclusion of all genders in all decision making at all levels, as well as fair and equal distribution of opportunities to all genders.

SDG 13: Climate Action

- Being a least contributor, Solomon Islands is still one of the most affected countries. Adaptation measures such as relocation will soon become pointless due to sinking islands. The main need right now is “Climate Finance for action”. There should be a youth accessible fund and mechanism linking directly to grassroots people since they are the most affected. A financial body for climate action should be put in place to provide necessary support to affected communities and funds to youths involved in climate change advocacy and awareness activities. Moreover, provide funds to invest in any youth led organisations and youth groups interested in bringing forth innovative ideas and solutions but lack fundings to execute it.
- Archipelagic islands are prone to sea level rise therefore initiatives such as rehabilitation for mangroves and corals should be implemented across the country targeting most affected communities such as our atoll islands especially.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- Our country can foster a culture of peace and inclusivity by strengthening the rule of law through enforcement, promoting human rights, and combating corruption at all levels of society. We should also support initiatives that build trust between communities, enhance access to justice, and promote dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Transparency of government bodies is vital to create trust between the people and their government. This gives assurance to the people about the state of the country and their faith in the people they vote for.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Organise more programmes that encourage the involvement of as many country representatives as possible at both national and international scale to engage in meaningful discussions and activities with other significant global groups and NGOs creating a network that aims to achieve a mutual goal. This will not only allow engagement of country representatives in sharing of information, resources, knowledge and innovations, but also strengthen partnership between countries.

The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum in Bangkok on February 15-17, 2024. The Solomon Islands drafting team was led by Miriam Arzienta Sulu. The following youth advocates were not part of the APFSD Youth Forum but provided input to the document: Abel Wanesuia, Ernest Kera, Beth Mekimo, Jasmine Rahii, Shirlene Hiru, Serema Kwato'o and Maclean Runi. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.

