



# The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations Inc.

## - SUNGO -

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9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## PRESS RELEASE

### Pacific Islands Forum's Secretary General meets with SUNGO.

9 June 2023, *SUNGO Office, Vaitele* - The Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, H.E Henry Puna while in Apia as part of his in-country high-level consultations, made time to meet with the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO) and a number of its Member Organizations on Friday, 9th June 2023.

The Pacific Island Forum's Delegation include Secretary General Henry Puna and Samoan diplomat, His Excellency Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia and Ms Nikola Komailevuka who is the Pacific Regionalism Adviser and also the Executive Coordination Officer.

The main reason behind the meeting was to hear t civil society organizations' views on regional issues, as well as seeking the involvement of Civil Society Organizations in Forum processes. He was keen to see CSOs involved.

The S.G talked about current political developments in the region, nuclear development in the Pacific, the Blue Continent Concept, and the need for regional cooperation.

The Members raised a number of issues including the impact of the RSE Scheme on village communities, the impact of subsidies, poverty eradication, food security, gender equality, digital transformation and more.

SUNGO and its members expressed how grateful they were for the opportunity to voice their concerns directly to the Secretary General about impacts faced by communities within the Pacific.

**End of Release**



***SUNGO Executive Council, Member Organizations and Pacific Islands Forum Delegation***

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