



**Expert Group Meeting on “The Future of Digital Government for Sustainable Development in Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and the Landlocked Developing Countries”
(4-5 June 2019, Incheon, Republic of Korea)**

A short report by Anju Mangal and Andrew Molivurae

PICISOC members, Andrew Molivurae and Anju Mangal attended the Expert Group Meeting on “The Future of Digital Government for Sustainable Development”.

The outcome-focussed meeting required PICISOCs intervention to articulate what the Pacific wanted to achieve and what end-result we wanted to seek by attending the meeting. ‘In the context of the need for governments to progress digital government priorities, there has been some ongoing discussions around the challenges faced by the governments in SIDs and LDCs. There is challenges such as internet connectivity/bandwidth, expensive internet access, inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks, shortage of requisite human ICT capacity, failure to use local language and content, and lack of entrepreneurship and a business culture open to change. These countries in special situations have not been able to reap the sustainable benefits through ICT and digital government.’ [[UNPOG Digital Government](#)]

Over 20 delegates from SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs met on 4-5 June to discuss and review emerging issues and trends in the area of digital government for sustainable development in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, which should be analyzed in the 2020 UN Survey. The meeting reflected on the methodology of the Survey and its related indexes.

Discussions were around the need to enable the role of information communication technologies (ICTs) to support SIDS. The sessions outlined:

- Trends and Needs in Digital Government for Sustainable Development in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs
- Digital Inclusion and E-Participation in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs
- Leveraging Frontier Technologies in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs for SDG Implementation: Strategies, Experiences and Challenges
- Strengthening Data Governance for Better Data-Driven Policy Making
- Enhancing Digital Government Capacity in LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, improving infrastructure providing training and support towards national legislation
- strengthening partnership with the private sector and other stakeholders and ensuring that there’s a multistakeholder approach
- ongoing efforts by World Bank, UN, ADB and other key players in the Asia-Pacific region to how they can provide support to the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

Presentations were focussed on:

- Ongoing increase connectivity and the role that World Bank, ADB and UN is playing in the Pacific
- Enhancing the use of ICTs through improved infrastructure, training and national legislation



- strengthening partnership with the private sector and other stakeholders and ensuring that there's a multistakeholder approach
- Presentation and programme can be found here:
http://unpog.org/page/sub4_2_tab_introduction.asp?tb_Symposium_sn=4



Presentations and tools that can support Pacific Islanders:

1. Presentation on the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), regional institute of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), is focussing on three inter-related pillars: Training, Knowledge-Sharing, and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and Partnership. Together they form an integrated approach to ICT human capacity building. Link: <http://www.unapcict.org/>
2. [DIGIT4SD Toolkit Digital Government Implementation Toolkit for Sustainable Development](#) - Developing a toolkit that can help LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs to leverage digital government to support the implementation of the SDGs and its targets
3. [eGov toolkit](#) for Developing Countries (good resource tool)
4. [e-gov knowledge base](#)
5. Fostering Digital Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing for Smart Sustainable Cities for All - <http://we-gov.org/>
6. Amazon Cloud Services – Data, the seed of cloud platform

Recommendations from Andrew and Anju

1. How can we translate the key outcomes/recommendations into action?
2. We are recommending having ongoing discussions with key experts to support the ongoing Digital Government initiatives for SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.
3. We have various approaches and mechanisms that vary across the region. We all have different modality of support (in country, government, intergovernmental, donors or partners). Therefore, UNPOG will need to reach out to individual experts from the Pacific to ensure that there is a multistakeholder approach to support the eGov process
4. PICISOC to continue being a conduit between UN and then key stakeholders in the region to ensure that continuation of knowledge sharing and also to ensure that UNPOG will link up with the individual experts to explore potential activities that will enhance Digital Governments
5. Organise a roundtable to discuss opportunities to work together – UNPOG, World Bank, ADB and other key players to work with PICISOC to prepare for a Pacific-SIDS/LDC focussed multistakeholder workshop/meeting in the region focussing on 3 or 4 key priorities.
6. Avoid working in silos – donors and partners should find an opportunity to pull resources together
7. Avoid comparing the achievements of a developed country to a LDCs, LLDCs or SIDS.

Way forward

PICISOC is promoting the trend of knowledge sharers. We would like to give you the information to contact the presenters directly but we are also mindful that there are knowledge hoarders. Please do not gather and guard information for personal preservation. We encourage you to build partnership with your countries/communities by working together with PICISOC.

Please get in touch with Anju Mangal and or Andrew Molivurae if you wish to learn more about the meeting and or presenters – anjum@spc.int and amolivurae@gmail.com



Disclaimer: Andrew and Anju's participation was not funded by PICISOC. UNPOG reached out to key experts from the region who are working in various sectors and initiatives to support eGov and Digital Transformation in the Pacific. I believe other PICISOC members were also invited.