

PACIFIC ISLANDS URBAN REALITIES: INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS	
ORGANIZATION (PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS)	Pacific Islands Urban Realities (PIUR) Ministry of Internal Affairs, Government of Kiribati; Office of Urbanization, Government of Papua New Guinea; Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey, Government of Solomon Islands; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
DATE/TIME	26 July, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
VENUE	Crystal 4
DESCRIPTION	<p>In the 20 years since Habitat II, populations in urban areas across the Pacific Islands have grown at rates twice that of their national averages. This phenomenon is characterized by rural to urban migration, growing economies, and demographic changes. One-in-four Pacific Islanders now lives in a city. Many new rural migrants find shelter in informal settlements and in peri-urban environments. Informal settlements continue to develop around the urban centres throughout the Pacific Islands. In Fiji, the number of informal settlements has risen by 75 per cent since Habitat II. These settlements tend to develop on the least desired land, which are usually hazard-prone, have limited access to basic urban services, and have a limited security of tenure.</p> <p>As part of the preparations for the Habitat III Conference, the fourth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF 4) held in Nadi, Fiji in March 2015, concluded with a call to find sustainable solutions to the challenges of urbanization and its impact on towns, cities and urban centres in the Pacific region. One of the key priorities identified was how to upgrade informal settlements— which would build climate resilience in the Pacific. This question will be discussed during upcoming National Urban Forums/Conferences. Some Pacific Island countries like Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Fiji and Tonga already have policies in place to upgrade Informal Settlements. The government of the Solomon Islands is currently developing a National Urbanization Policy.</p> <p>In line with the Habitat III process of engagements and inputs, this Side Event hopes to contribute to the regional preparations and inputs to the New Urban Agenda and the Conference.</p>





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SIDE EVENTS FOR PREPCOM3 SURABAYA

	<p>Panelists from the region will draw on their experience to provide insights regarding informal settlements as well as share their perspective on how to tackle these issues.</p>
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