

In December 1994 the parliament of Fiji passed the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons (FNCDP) Act. The primary functions of FNCDP are to serve as a coordinating mechanism on disability matters, formulate national disability policies, develop plans, procure funds to support disability services, conduct relevant seminars/workshops, raise better community awareness on disability issues, mainstream disability concerns into government activities, and promote disability prevention measures.

FNCDP has developed a corporate and strategic plan reflecting these priorities and articulating a mission which includes the need to "facilitate the process of creating a barrier free society through a collective collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders.

To date there is no statistics on the number of people with disabilities in Fiji, however the Fiji Bureau Statistics has included disability related questions in the last two census questioner and currently the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons is conducting a nation wide survey on the number of persons with disabilities in Fiji. The Fiji based disability organisation use the WHO estimate which mentions that 10% of the worlds population, approximately 500 million individuals, of some sort of disability. Furthermore 80% of these people live in developing countries.

## **Priority Areas**

### **1. Convention On the Rights of Persons With Disabilities [CRPD]**

This Treaty as is the first new human rights convention of the 21<sup>st</sup> century adopted by the United Nations and further advances the human rights of the 650 million people with disabilities worldwide. It urges equal protection and equal benefits under the law for all citizens; it rejects discrimination in all its forms, and calls for the full participation and inclusion in society of all persons with disabilities.

#### **Recommendation**

- *Urge the Government of the Republic of Fiji Islands to sign and ratify the [CRPD]*

### **2. Access to public places and public buildings**

Currently in Fiji many public places and public buildings are not accessible to people with disabilities Public buildings include government departments, post office banks shopping centres cinemas restaurants police stations and hospitals. Although this Rights are guaranteed in the

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- Public Health National Building Code 2004
- Fiji Building Standards
- Biwako Millennium Framework Priority 5
- CRPD Article 9

#### **Recommendations**

- Urge the government of The Republic of the Fiji Islands to ensure that public places and building are accessible to persons with disabilities. Government must also enforce the above laws and policies on accessibility.