

EB158: Solomon Islands Statement on Agenda Item 31

Economics of Health for All

The Draft Strategy on the Economics of Health for All presents a transformative vision for integrating health and well-being into the core of economic policymaking. For Pacific Islands Countries (PICs), which face unique geographical, economic, and climatic challenges, the strategy offers both significant opportunities and notable concerns:

1. The strategy's emphasis on environmental sustainability and equity aligns strongly with the priorities of many Pacific nations. PICs are on the frontline of the climate crisis, which directly impacts health through food security, waterborne diseases, and displacement. The strategy's call for economic policies that protect natural resources and promote intergenerational well-being that supports PICs existing commitments to climate-resilient health systems.
2. While the strategy outlines ambitious actions, PICs may **face capacity constraints in implementation**. Many Pacific nations have limited technical expertise in health economics, cross-sectoral governance, and data systems. Strategic Direction 4 of the report rightly highlights the need for capacity-building, but PICs will require tailored and sustained external support to develop these competencies. Additionally, the reliance on domestic resource mobilization—such as taxation and national insurance—may be challenging for small, informal economies with narrow tax bases and high dependence on external aid.

Conclusion: The Draft Strategy on the Economics of Health for All provides a timely and principled framework for reorienting economies toward health and well-being. For Pacific Islands Countries, it offers a pathway to foster sustainable development in line with regional values and priorities. We therefore support the adoption of this strategy and urge Member States and partners to ensure its implementation is inclusive, context-sensitive, and adequately resourced to enable all nations, including small island developing states - to realize health for all.

I thank you Chair