



## Pacific Immigration Development Community

2023 Regular Annual Meeting

20-22 June, Port Vila, Vanuatu

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### Agenda item 17: World Refugee Day: Reflections

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#### Recommendation

Members note the significance of world refugee day and recognise their plight and resilience.

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#### Purpose

This session seeks to reflect on World Refugee Day and build more understanding on their plight and resilience to build a brighter future.

#### Background

2. World Refugee Day was first celebrated on June 20, 2001 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. World Refugee Day consequently is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.

3. At the end of 2022, more than 100 million people were forcibly displaced globally — a record number propelled by the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world. For millions of refugees who are forcibly displaced each year due to conflict, violence and persecution, fleeing is the first step in a long and difficult journey to finding safety. With a record number of people forced to flee their homes, the international community must work together to give refugees more hope and more opportunities while they are away from home. The most effective way to support refugees is by including them in the communities where they have found safety — this means ensuring they can apply for jobs, enrol in schools and access services like housing and healthcare. Inclusion paves the way for long-term solutions for refugees and displaced people, allowing them to thrive in a new country or preparing them for a safe return to their home countries.

4. Consequently, on World Refugee Day, the UN celebrate refugees' contributions and seek to build empathy and understanding for their plight and their resilience to build a bright future. The day is marked by a variety of events in many countries, including cultural activities, sports, educational programs, and fundraising events. The goal of these events is to raise awareness about the plight of refugees and to encourage people to take action to support them.

5. This year's theme for World Refugee Day is *"Together we heal, learn and shine"*. It aims to highlight the power of unity and solidarity in healing from trauma, learning new skills, and achieving success despite adversity.