

**CONCLUDING STATEMENT FROM THE WORKSHOP FOR  
PACIFIC BENCHMARKS FOR DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURES**

Twenty workshop participants meeting in Brisbane, Queensland, on 26 June 2009 welcomed the opportunity for the Parliaments of Pacific island countries to:

- (a) Engage in a process to adapt Commonwealth Benchmarks to Pacific circumstances, and
- (b) Through this process, provide feedback to the global parliamentary benchmarks initiative to ensure Commonwealth and global parliamentary standards and indicators reflect the diversity of practices in the Commonwealth and specifically the Pacific islands.

Workshop participants provided guidance to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank Institute and Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development/Forum Presiding Officers and Clerks as to the Benchmarks that may need further elaboration or modification to accommodate Pacific island experiences in parliamentary democracy.

Furthermore, participants indicated their intention to work with their Parliaments to apply the Commonwealth Benchmarks to their Parliaments with an eye to identifying those

**Commonwealth Benchmarks that should be adapted, refined or augmented to better reflect the Pacific islands' parliamentary traditions and practices.**

**The self-assessment reports that will be prepared by member Parliaments and a set of draft Pacific Benchmarks will form the basis of a Regional Benchmarks Workshop to be held in the Cook Islands from 20 to 26 November 2009.**

**The CPA, UNDP, WBI and PPAPD/FPOC undertake to provide guidance and in-kind assistance to Pacific island Parliaments in the preparation of their self-assessments.**

**The participating Parliaments and organizations extended their thanks to the Centre for Democratic Institutions and the Parliament of Queensland for facilitating the discussions at the workshop.**