
PRESS RELEASE

UNDP Resident Representative Ms Aliona Niculita and Deputy Resident Representative Mr Paolo Dalla Stella paid a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Ombudsman.

Office of the Ombudsman, SNPF Plaza Level 2 – August 24, 2026

Ms. Niculita and Mr. Dalla Stella congratulated the Ombudsman, Afioga Vui Clarence Nelson on his appointment and expressed their support for the Office's future work under his leadership. During the meeting, Ombudsman Nelson and the UNDP delegation each acknowledged the importance of maintaining the Office's "A" accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). Ombudsman Nelson outlined some of the priority areas of work for the Office, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, child protection, domestic and family violence, the rights of women and other vulnerable groups, and development of a 5-year strategic plan.

The UNDP delegation affirmed its willingness to support the Office's work in areas that strengthen its capacity and mandate. Resident Rep. Niculita noted that UNDP would explore the possibility of allocating resources to support some of the identified priority areas.

Ombudsman Nelson informed the UNDP delegation that the Commonwealth Forum for National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI) resolved in March 2026 that the Office would continue as Chair of the Forum for another year, to October 2027. The decision was taken to ensure the CFNHRI continues to have steady leadership through the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Office is currently working on planning and preparations for the CFNHRI Biennial Meeting, which will be the first official side event in the CHOGM calendar. The Office is actively seeking support for its attendance at this very significant pre-CHOGM meeting which represents an opportunity to highlight and develop some of the offices planned works in the coming years

Looking ahead, Ombudsman Nelson also highlighted his long-term goal of establishing a Pacific Human Rights Charter to strengthen cooperation and promotion of human rights across the region.

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