

PACIFIC DIALOGUE's 'EVEN DOZEN'

CONSTITUTION

A set of basic principles and rules by which people agree to be governed. It is the supreme law in a constitutional democracy. [see Note 1, over]

DEMOCRACY

Government in which the people hold the power and exercise it directly or indirectly, for their and their nation's well-being. In a democracy, every person has equal value. [see Note 2]

ELECTIONS

A formal democratic process by which people choose individuals to act on their behalf

FREE-and-FAIR ELECTIONS

Elections that are open to all, on an equal basis, and in which the result is not affected by social and cultural barriers to voting and participating, nor by fraud or corruption

POLITICAL PARTY

An organised group of people that seeks to influence government or public policy usually by its members participating in elections.

TRANSPARENCY

Transparency implies free access to information including the reasons for decisions. It operates in a way that makes it easy to understand how and why things are being done.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Explaining actions and activities and accepting responsibility for what happened as a result of those actions and activities

GENDER EQUALITY

Women and girls are equally as important as men and boys, have the same choices, and must stick to the same rules. [See Note 3]

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Government that is transparent, accountable and responsive to people's needs

HUMAN RIGHTS

Basic rights and freedoms to which all people are entitled. They include the right to life, the right to think and express oneself independently, and for every person to be treated equally before the law. Human rights are universal and indivisible.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A form of slavery in which people are tricked into doing things against their will, sometimes sold, made to work for strangers or a family member, and often without pay [See Note 4]

JUSTICE

Fair, honest, reasonable and impartial treatment of all people [See Note 5]

To find out **how to register** to vote, see overleaf (->)

www.pacificdialogue.com.fj, or phone 336 3095



Notes

Note 1 (Constitution) – Because the Constitution is the supreme law in a Constitutional Democracy, all laws are measured against the Constitution.

Note 2 (Democracy) - Democracy assumes that each person has the same value as all other persons. It is a society where everyone is equal. Barriers to true democracy arise from an unequal access to goods and services.

Note 3 (Gender equality) - Substantive gender equality looks at the way men and women have actual access to goods and services within social, cultural and institutional barriers, and identifies ways of removing those barriers to achieve equality.

Note 4 (Human trafficking) - Human trafficking is a form of human exploitation.

Note 5 (Justice) - Substantive justice is about considering access to justice including the right to appear in an impartial (fair) court, to be represented by counsel, to have free legal representation when poor, and to be heard on an equal basis when suffering from physical or social disadvantage.