

## Linking global, regional and national commitments to gender equality in the Pacific Islands region



References to regional commitments to gender equality to support Pacific delegations' participation to the Commission on the Status of Women

© Pacific Community (SPC) 2017

All rights for commercial/for profit reproduction or translation, in any form, reserved. SPC authorises the partial reproduction or translation of this material for scientific, educational or research purposes, provided that SPC and the source document are properly acknowledged. Permission to reproduce the document and/or translate in whole, in any form, whether for commercial/for profit or non-profit purposes, must be requested in writing. Original SPC artwork may not be altered or separately published without permission.

## Linking global, regional and national commitments to gender equality in the Pacific Islands region

References to regional commitments to gender equality to support Pacific delegations' participation to the Commission on the Status of Women

Prepared by the Social Development Division of the Pacific Community  
Revised in February 2017

Prepared for publication at SPC's Suva Regional Office

Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji

2017





## What is the Commission on the Status of Women?

Established in 1947, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental organisation dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and provides a platform for monitoring the progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). The annual CSW is a two-week-long process. Every year, representatives of member states, civil society organisations (CSOs) and United Nations (UN) entities gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York, to assess progress and gaps, identify emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women, and formulate recommendations to promote gender equality and the advancement of women. Those recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions and are submitted to the ECOSOC to inform the global development agenda.

The discussion and negotiations on the agreed conclusions focus on a priority theme. In preparation for CSW, the report of the UN Secretary-General examines issues and makes recommendations related to the priority theme. Some meetings also revolve around the review theme, which monitors progress in implementing the agreed conclusion of previous years. Other meetings discuss the emerging issues and focus area. In 2017, the priority theme is 'Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work'; the review theme is 'Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls' (agreed conclusions of the CSW58); the emerging issues/focus area is 'The empowerment of indigenous women'.

Throughout the two weeks of CSW, member states, CSOs, development partners and academia in attendance run a series of side events highlighting success stories and achievements on gender equality. It is always a busy and exciting time at the UN Headquarters in New York, with a large number of events taking place as part of the CSW.

The first week of CSW involves the presentation of the Secretary-General's report, ministerial roundtables, high-level dialogues and expert panels, and several parallel events. Civil society organisations are also heavily involved in the CSW. The CSO side events deal with a multitude of topics regarding gender equality and women's human rights. Those events continue during the second week, but the negotiations of the agreed conclusions also intensify during the second week, with the objective of reaching agreement and endorsing the agreed conclusions on the last day of CSW.

## Why do Pacific states engage in CSW?

UN member states from the Pacific region may wish to participate in this annual meeting, to ensure that the global development agenda reflects the priorities of Pacific women. The Commission on the Status of Women is a platform for Pacific delegates to provide input into the global policy agenda. It also is space for learning lessons from across the globe that Pacific states may want to replicate and adapt, to advance their efforts in progressing gender equality. Engagement by Pacific member states at CSW is another mechanism for strengthening regional cooperation on gender equality, and it is also another avenue for providing visibility on how Pacific Island countries and territories are progressing gender equality in the region.

## How do Pacific states engage in CSW?

There are several activities in which delegates can engage, which are described below.

### The preparation phase:

- Become familiar with the report of the Secretary-General
- Review the global, regional, and national commitments to gender equality and women's human rights
- Engage in a dialogue in-country to discuss your country's position in relation to the draft agreed conclusions, which is usually made available to the countries one month before CSW
- Provide inputs to the draft agreed conclusions through your mission in New York, in order to reflect your country's position
- Prepare the country statement



### At CSW:

- Delivery of countries' statements occurs during the first two days of CSW. Five minutes is allocated to delegates to deliver their statement, which usually reflects on the progress made in delivering commitments to gender equality in the country.
- The Pacific Permanent Missions in New York convene a Pacific Regional Roundtable each year, as a way to mobilise the Pacific delegations attending and to facilitate dialogue on the priorities for the member states attending CSW. This is an opportunity for the delegations to be more coordinated in their approach in the negotiation process around the agreed conclusions.
- Delegates can participate in ministerial roundtables, high-level dialogues, expert panels, and parallel or side events.
- CSW also offers delegates an update of members of the mission in New York about priorities related to promoting gender equality, as well as the opportunity to meet potential partners to support their actions in-country.
- Delegates can play an important role in the negotiation process of the agreed conclusions in order to make sure that the concerns and priorities of Pacific women are reflected.

### After CSW:

- Delegates can organise meetings to share what they have learned and the outcomes of CSW, and to identify how to implement the agreed conclusions throughout their work programmes based on country priorities.

### Who can support the delegates?

- The delegates to CSW can benefit from the support of multiple institutions, which are described below.
- The Pacific missions to the United Nations are the official liaison between the delegates and the UN. The missions can provide information on UN processes and logistics. They can also assist in the preparation of the country's statement.
- A number of civil society organisations from the Pacific region also play an important role during CSW, in carrying the voice of Pacific women in the multiple side events they organise or take part in, in monitoring the negotiations, and in advocating for meaningful measures to be included to progress gender equality and women's human rights. Many CSOs are part of regional and global coalitions, and have, over the years, developed significant expertise in diverse areas of women's human rights, including intersectionality, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, the elimination of violence against women and girls, women's economic empowerment, women's leadership, peace and security, climate change and financing for development. Many are also skilled in negotiations processes like the ones at CSW. They can offer assistance to the delegates and Pacific missions.
- The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Community (SPC) can also provide technical assistance to the delegates by providing information on the programme of CSW, organising briefing sessions, supporting Pacific dialogues, liaising with CSOs, assisting the delegates during the negotiations process, and preparing briefs.
- UN Women can also provide focused support related to the CSW themes and the methods of work.

During the negotiations, the delegates will make reference to existing global instruments for gender equality, using agreed language (i.e. endorsed through the global instruments), to assist the negotiation process. The instruments that are usually used during the negotiations are: the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA); the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW); and the Sustainable Development Goals (or Agenda 2030) – in particular SDG 5.

In addition to the global instruments, Pacific UN member states may also refer to the numerous regional and national commitments to gender equality and women's human rights. These include the Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality<sup>1</sup> (PPA, 1994, revised in 2004); the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration; the recommendations made at triennial conferences of Pacific women (2010, 2013); the Communiqués of the Ministers for Women meetings (2011, 2013); the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016); the Moana Declaration – Outcome statement of Pacific Parliamentarians for population and Development (2014); and the outcomes of the Fifth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability (2017). Pacific delegates may also want to refer to their own country commitments to gender equality, commitments made through their national gender policy, and other national development plans and human rights commitments.

This document is a compilation of information on regional commitments made by Pacific UN member states to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in nine areas:

	Page
<a href="#">Economic Empowerment</a>	5
<a href="#">Education</a>	9
<a href="#">Health</a>	11
<a href="#">Ending Violence against Women</a>	15
<a href="#">Leadership and Decision Making</a>	19
<a href="#">Mechanisms for Gender</a>	23
<a href="#">Equality Peace and Security</a>	27
<a href="#">Climate Change</a>	29
<a href="#">Human rights of Women</a>	31

<sup>1</sup> This regional charter formed the Pacific contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, in 1995, where at which the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action were adopted.



Asian Development Bank

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>

## Economic Empowerment

### | 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration |

- Remove barriers to women's employment and participation in the formal and informal sectors, including in relation to legislation that directly or indirectly limits women's access to employment opportunities or contributes to discriminatory pay and conditions for women.
- Implement equal employment opportunity and gender equality measures in public sector employment, including State Owned Enterprises and statutory boards, to increase the proportion of women employed, including in senior positions, and advocate for a similar approach in private sector agencies;
- Improve the facilities and governance of local produce markets, including fair and transparent local regulation and taxation policies, so that market operations increase profitability and efficiency and encourage women's safe, fair and equal participation in local economies.
- Target support to women entrepreneurs in the formal and informal sectors, for example financial services, information and training, and review legislation that limits women's access to finance, assets, land and productive resources

### | Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2004) |

- Ensure that the law upholds women's rights to equal opportunity in all fields of employment.
- Support women's participation in income generating activities in rural areas and in disadvantaged households as well as in women-headed households.

#### In relation to labour migration

- Control and monitor the activities of private recruitment agencies by governments through its relevant ministries and departments and other stakeholder institutions to prevent exploitation and abuses of women migrant workers in the PICTs.
- Recognise that more research is needed on the conditions that impact migrant women workers. Areas that need special focus include the scrutiny of all contractual agreements, working and living conditions of these migrant women workers, how they are processed by the host immigration, labour and other relevant government ministries.
- Recognise that further research on remittances received by households and the extent to which they are used to improve women's lives, and analysis on the ways that the migration of male workers impacts on women and families.
- Ensure that greater consideration of labour issues is needed at the regional and international levels to address gender equality relating to safety and security, health, education and other needs of migrant women workers.
- Undertake more in-depth studies on migrant women workers in PICTs.
- Study closely the underlying causes and impacts of brain-drain to national economies of PICTs with a view to addressing the causes or increasing the benefits received.

#### In relation to globalization and trade

- Undertake a regional approach to obtaining financial and technical support to identify and take advantage of opportunities arising out of globalisation for Pacific women.
- Monitor trade liberalisation trends by sector or trade agreements to better understand the implications of liberalised trade on Pacific women, men, boys and girls.
- Ensure the participation of women and incorporation of gender issues and concerns in PICTA and upcoming Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations that would be launched in September 2004.
- Recognise that the discussion of the Pacific Plan is an ideal opportunity for women to be involved in advocating for gender issues at a regional level and support the inclusion of women representatives in the Pacific Plan Taskforce.
- Encourage the Forum Secretariat Gender Adviser to jointly collaborate with other relevant agencies to conduct gender impact studies of trade liberalisation under instruments such as PICTA and EPA and monitor the gender implications of trade agreements including those under negotiation, with a view to addressing negative impacts on women's livelihoods and status, specifically the impacts of tariff revenue losses, job losses, land registration/privatisation and liberalisation of utilities, health and education .
- Mainstream gender issues and concerns into trade negotiations and discussions and delay making further trade liberalisation commitment without substantive consultation with countries and territories.
- Agree to a coordinated approach at the national and regional level through partnerships between governments, private sector, NGOs and CSOs to address problems arising out of trade liberalisation.
- Patent intellectual property rights of traditional knowledge.

### In relation to poverty

- Address the root causes of poverty particularly as the issue of poverty relates to women.
- Make use of regional and international organisations to provide technical assistance and develop country specific and gender specific sex disaggregated data and supporting indicators to assist in the development of integrated national poverty reduction strategies as well as in monitoring the rate of implementation of the strategies.
- Work with development partners to mobilise resources to implement integrated poverty reduction strategies.
- Ensure that all male and female wage earners in the private sector be covered by a social insurance fund or similar scheme.
- Promote greater understanding of the money economy including the support for financial literacy programmes in schools and communities.

## | Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women |

61. Called for all PICTs to review the implementation of national employment legislation and policies, to promote decent work, to remove discriminatory practices and pay, and to eliminate sexual harassment that limits women's overall participation in the economy.
62. Supported and welcomed initiatives that improve the efficiency, productivity and safety of local markets and encourage national ownership by PICTs' governments.
63. Encouraged state-owned and private enterprises to improve and expand women's employment opportunities, and to promote, equitably, women to leadership positions.
64. Called on governments, the private sector and financial institutions to invest in and support women and young women, including those with disabilities, women living in rural and remote areas,
65. particularly women, as key economic actors whose sovereign right to use and own land should be protected through legally binding safeguards, including against land grabbing.
66. Urged governments to provide economic incentives for the private, not-for-profit, and state sectors to train and employ young women.
67. Called on governments and the private sector to provide good quality, accessible and affordable childcare as a critical driver of women's economic empowerment and economic development.
68. Urged FEMM to identify investment opportunities for women's employment and women SMEs and entrepreneurs in all regional and national tourism strategies and plans, and called on PICTs with support from development partners to invest in these areas.
69. Called on governments and development partners to ensure that all environmental and social impact assessments of extractive industries, which disproportionately affect women and children, include a rigorous gender analysis to identify and mitigate against economic, social, cultural and environmental risks.

## | Outcomes 11th triennial conference of Pacific women |

### 22. The Conference acknowledged:

- a. the need for social protection and legal empowerment, particularly for the most impoverished women and families;
- b. the need for gender responsive legislation and fiscal policies that will enhance the informal economy, especially marketplaces;
- c. the need for legislation that provides improved parental leave and child care provisions for all working parents, including parents working in the informal economy;
- d. the need for improved access to financial services and training for all women entrepreneurs, women involved in labour mobility schemes, and women managing natural resources;

- e. that women's economic rights and empowerment need to be integrated into mainstream national and regional economic dialogue and frameworks.

### 23. The Conference recommended:

- a. that SPC's Economic Development Division be mandated to analyse, address and monitor the gender dimensions in all its areas of work;
- b. that national and regional level discussions and frameworks on market development, trade, agriculture, fisheries, land issues, information and communications technology, infrastructure and energy involve the participation of women and integrate gender and women's human rights;
- c. that SPC request that PIFS include economic empowerment of women as a standing agenda item at the Forum Economic Ministers Meetings and any other trade and economic meetings;

- d. that SPC request that the International Labour Organization (ILO) provide a forum to discuss regional standards for gender sensitive labour laws, and to host meetings for participants from member countries to exchange lessons learned and best practices in the area of employment opportunities and workplace conditions;
- e. that PICTs consider offering low interest rate loans for women's small business ventures and further develop the informal sector;
- f. that PICTs and development partners support research and the centralised availability of that research to inform regional and national strategies in the area of economic

- empowerment of women, including time use surveys, wage gap data, and an assessment of the impact of micro-finance schemes on women's empowerment;
- g. that PICTs and regional organisations ensure women's full participation in the development of all policies and the implementation of all programmes on natural resource management;
- h. that programmes for addressing climate change earmark funds to empower women and recognise their role in the climate change response;
- i. that PICTs and development partners take steps to improve gender responsive budgeting in the region.

## | Communiqué 5th Women Ministers meeting |

### The Ministers:

recognised the importance of cultural industries to Pacific women and called for an enabling environment to support greater access to markets.

## | Communiqué 4th Women Ministers meeting |

### Ministers noted the need to:

- establish a critical mass of women at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors to create a transformational shift in gender equality in the economy;
- create the enabling environment for women's representation on boards, in the community, in the private sector and in decision-making positions in all Pacific Island countries and territories, utilising existing national women's machineries, with special attention to young women;
- mobilise and educate men and women on the need for change to a gender equal economy;
- continue to increase access to finance including insurance, savings, investments and credit;
- specifically support women in business by creating a more targeted, enabling environment to increase women's business knowledge and skills and, in doing so, facilitate the transition to formal, larger women-owned businesses;
- reduce the vulnerability of women operating in the informal sector through greater education and improved enabling environment;
- promote women's traditional knowledge and crafts at the national, regional and international level, in partnership with civil society organisations. encourage more public-private partnerships to foster women's involvement in business development and access to markets; and
- enhance the quality of research and data analysis on women in the economy, specifically to: (i) address the gaps in understanding of the economic cost of gender based violence; (ii) meet the need for baseline surveys on micro, small and medium enterprises in each country and territory to determine women's participation in the economy; and (iii) demonstrate the value of women's contribution to the economy.

## | Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |

Persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, are included in regional and national private sector organisations;

Persons with disabilities (men, women and youth) participate in vocational training and small business training courses (Incheon Target 1.C)

## | Fifth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability |

5. c) Building capacity of women and girls with disabilities through economic empowerment and livelihoods
7. a) Supporting and providing training opportunities and programs for young people and women with disabilities to gain skills, employment and decent work, including through entrepreneurship.



## Education

### | 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration |

Encourage gender parity in informal, primary, secondary and tertiary education and training opportunities.

### | Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women | and Gender Equality (2004)

85. The Conference reiterates the importance of equality in education training for girls and boys, women and men at all levels, including selection for training programmes and scholarship awards. In this regard, governments are called to develop a gender policy and plan of action for their Departments of Education<sup>10</sup>.
86. The Conference further calls upon all governments to review school curricula and textbooks to ensure they are free of negative gender stereotyping.
87. The Conference calls for the participatory consultation with all stakeholders during the design and implementation phases of any education reform process.
88. The Conference acknowledges the important role of technical and vocational education, life skills training programmes and entrepreneurial programmes in promoting sustainable livelihood and the reduction of poverty. In this regard, the Conference calls for the further strengthening of this mode of education and training in all PICTs to complement the formal education system.

### | Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women |

35. Called for PICTs to adopt measures that ensure that girls have equal access to primary, secondary and tertiary education, especially in rural and remote areas, and areas of great hardship.
36. Called for PICTs to adopt measures that promote respect for the safety of women and girls in the school environment, including measures to prevent as well as to respond to SGBV.
37. Encouraged training and education institutions to expand choices for women and girls in accessing technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and higher education.
38. Called for PICTs to put in place inclusive policies to accommodate pregnant young women and mothers to complete their education.
39. Requested countries and CROP agencies to support greater research and gender analysis with strategies to address the root causes of the lower retention and achievement rates of boys in some PICTs.
40. Called for PICTs to disseminate data regarding Pacific women's access to education and to support initiatives that address all barriers – civil, political, social, cultural, economic and physical – faced by women, young women, and girls, including those with disabilities, to access all levels of education.
41. Supported improvements in the quality of education towards strengthening literacy and numeracy rates, and noted that SPBEA and the Forum Education Ministers have initiated work in this area.
42. Called for PICTs to review school curricula and all teaching materials in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and all forms of discrimination.
43. Called for PICTs, with the support of CROP agencies and development partners, to implement initiatives for (a) the ongoing professional development of teachers and vocational trainers, and (b) a core basic teacher training programme that includes compulsory areas in family health and comprehensive sex education, counselling and working with those with special needs.
44. Requested the Forum Education Ministers' Meeting, and all other regional ministerial fora, to include a gender perspective in the development of all education policies and programmes.
45. Requested CROP agencies to provide research on the quality of training and professional development, particularly in the area of health education.
46. Called on PICTs to conduct research into the obstacles to women's access to decent work, even after investments made in higher level and tertiary studies, and identify links between higher education and employment outcomes for women.
47. Requested that all school buildings improve access to people with disabilities on their campuses and in their distance learning programmes.
48. Requested PICTs' education systems to include climate change and gender in school curricula.



## Health

### | 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration |

Ensure reproductive health (including family planning) education, awareness and service programs receive adequate funding support;

### | Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women | and Gender Equality (2004)

- Improve the quality of and access to affordable medical services and reproductive health services.
- Improve access to health education and provision of programmes for disease prevention.
- Promote the establishment of free screening facilities on cancer cases and monitor the rising incidences of cancer.
- Closely monitor health reforms and the social impacts on women and their families by National Women's Machinerys.
- Provide additional resources in combating increased incidences in non-communicable diseases.
- Provide a full range of reproductive health information and services to both men and women, including young and adolescent men and women.
- Review all aspects of legislation relevant to reproductive health
- Recognise that women with disabilities are doubly discriminated to overall access to health services against and ensure that issues affecting them are incorporated into national policies and programmes.

#### In relation to HIV/AIDS

- Strengthen primary health care services - particularly mother and child, family planning and STI services – as the necessary foundation for HIV/AIDS interventions.
- Governments to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS by creating an enabling environment where the vulnerable status of women is protected. This includes amongst other measures the review of existing laws and policies that may contribute to women's susceptibility to HIV infection

and other sexually transmitted diseases, and the adoption of laws and policies focusing on sexual health and reproductive rights, the rights of the girl-child, men and boys and the rights of women.

- Strong political commitment at all levels of decision-making on the threat posed by HIV/AIDS and an expanded response from different partners/stakeholders (governments, international organisations, civil society, religious and traditional leaders, private sectors, media) in a region-wide campaign against AIDS and elimination of practices that increase the vulnerability of women, young girls and children to HIV/AIDS.
- Governments to take ownership of HIV/AIDS as a development and human security issue and to devise creative budget measures and to lessen dependence on donor funding.
- Recognise that women with disabilities are doubly discriminated (insert: overall access to health services) against and ensure that issues affecting them are incorporated into national policies and programmes.
- Governments should develop comprehensive surveillance and data collection strategies to develop a more accurate reflection of the nature and magnitude of HIV/AIDS in Pacific nations.
- Government should increase the capacity for free, voluntary and confidential counselling and testing for HIV working in partnership with NGOs and other agencies as well as advocating for affordable anti-retroviral treatment drug and therapy.
- Governments adopt and facilitate the resourcing and implementation of the regional strategy on HIV/AIDS recently approved by Forum Leaders in Apia.

### | Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women |

Women's health involves concerns regarding women's sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and health concerns faced by women with disabilities. Access to good health care remains a challenge because of social and

cultural issues, the health care system itself, the set-up of sexual and reproductive health services, and access issues specific to certain groups, such as women who have been subjected to violence and women with disabilities.



#### The conference:

49. Noted the discussion of the Pacific Sexual Health and Wellbeing Shared Agenda 2014–2018 and acknowledged the importance of addressing the social determinants of health, such as gender-based violence and the transformation of gender roles having negative impacts on women's health.
50. Supported the incorporation of strategies for ending violence against women, young women, and girls, including those with disabilities, into health policies, training curricula, medical guidelines and standard operating procedures, including strengthening of health systems and their human resources, in order to assist efforts to effectively prevent and address violence against women.
51. Supported better access to family planning, including for women with disabilities, as a means of improving women's health, empowerment and social advancement, and reducing the risk of maternal death and STI and HIV transmission. The conference also requested the Pacific Health Ministers Meeting to include an agenda item at their next meeting on ways to address the major problem of the unmet need for contraceptives in the Pacific.
52. Supported access to inclusive, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, education and information, including access to safe spaces for women, young women, and girls, including those with disabilities, and supported the teaching of comprehensive sexuality education with appropriate content starting in primary school.
53. Commended the collaboration of parliamentarians, government, development partners, and civil society

organisations at the recent 6th Asia Pacific Population Conference, and recognised the recently passed Moana Declaration on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights at the Pacific Parliamentarians' consultation on the ICPD Beyond 2014 meeting, and requested this agenda be included in the health ministers' annual meeting and in decisions on national government allocations to ensure adequate resources for sexual and reproductive health.

54. Highlighted the need to strengthen national screening programmes for breast and cervical cancers, and immunisation against the human papillomavirus (HPV) to prevent cervical cancer, as well as treatment for STIs, including chlamydia, and requested that governments prioritise support in these areas.
55. Acknowledged the positive and negative impacts of traditional medicine and called on governments to examine and explore the use of traditional medicine and practices in the Pacific, and their impact on women's health.
56. Requested that PICTs make health sector information available and accessible to the community and grassroots level.
57. Requested that SPC explore funding opportunities to conduct family health and safety studies for the French territories.
58. Requested PICT governments to explore innovative strategies and new technologies to increase access to good quality, comprehensive, and inclusive health systems, including social protection, to improve health outcomes, including reducing NCD-related deaths and disability in women, especially in rural and remote areas.

### | Outcomes 11th triennial conference of Pacific women |

#### 21. The Conference recommended:

- a. that monitoring and evaluation of health services at the national and regional levels be strengthened to create up to date information to inform policy and programme development, including the collection and reporting of relevant data to align to the MDGs and other international agreements; all data collection should pay special attention to sex disaggregation and urban/rural disaggregation;
- b. that support and collaboration on women's health issues be intensified among key actors at international, regional and national levels, including civil society and communities;
- c. that national and regional providers of formal training of health care professionals integrate a comprehensive gender-sensitivity curriculum;
- d. that PICTs, with support from development partners, increase funding towards health infrastructure and technology in order to deliver quality, sustainable, gender responsive health services, including in rural areas and outer islands.

### | Communiqué 4th Women Ministers meeting |

#### Leading on from discussions on Temporary Special Measures (TSM), ministers recognised:

- the importance of TSM as a means of increasing women's representation at the highest levels for advocacy, policy formulation and budgetary support to address priority health issues for women and girls in the Pacific;
- that specific mandatory budgetary support should be allocated for women's health needs, non-communicable diseases, gender based violence issues and women's health services generally;

- the need to establish a mechanism whereby gender based violence is specifically addressed as a women's health issue and mainstreamed into health services; and
- the work of the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation and other non-governmental organisations in responding to HIV at the regional and national levels in the Pacific, and they reaffirmed the establishment of a Pacific Coalition on Women and AIDS calling for support from the development partner community for this initiative.

### | Moana Declaration – Outcome statement of Pacific Parliamentarians for | population and Development (2014)

Make sexual and reproductive health (SRH) an integral part of national development strategies, health plans and public budgets, with clearly identifiable allocations and expenditures.

Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all our peoples, without discrimination.

Increase support and protection for girls and young women, including enhancing access to education and comprehensive mechanisms for ensuring their access to SRH information and services.

Prioritize adolescent SRHR, including through comprehensive sexuality education, and establish accessible SRH and mental health services for youth in schools and other educational institutions, youth organizations, faith based organizations and communities, ensuring their meaningful participation.



## Ending Violence against Women

### | 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration |

- Implement progressively a package of essential services (protection, health, counselling, legal) for women and girls who are survivors of violence.
- Enact and implement legislation regarding sexual and gender based violence to protect women from violence and impose appropriate penalties for perpetrators of violence.

### | Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2004)

- Play a greater role in eliminating violence against women through policy, legislation and programmes.
- Reaffirm the need to have policies and programmes to collect and publicise data on violence against women and its economic costs and curb the prevalence of sexual and family violence collecting disaggregated data to quantify economic costs of violence against women.
- Formulate policies and supportive legislation to criminalise any form of violence.
- Adopt a multi-sectoral approach and to recognise the important role of men, women, boys and girls in addressing the problem of violence against women.
- To recognise that family violence is not a private issue but a serious public problem and request that Governments address this problem.
- Call upon religious and traditional leaders to take positive steps to challenge established assumptions that may contribute to the problem of violence against women.

### | Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women |

- 22. Called for governments to consider social protection measures for vulnerable women, including but not limited to women with disabilities, older women, women living with HIV/AIDS/STIs, young women, girls, female-headed households, widows, divorced women, migrant workers and caregivers.
  - a) to be included in national development strategies, plans and public financing mechanisms; and
  - b) to be adequately resourced through clearly identifiable budget allocations, expenditure and human resources.
- 23. Recognising the high prevalence rates of violence against women, young women and girls, including those with disabilities, and the impact of gambling, drug and substance abuse on increasing violence, the conference called for urgent and increased investment in policies, programmes, research and legislative reforms that provide services and support, including access to rights and justice.
- 24. Commended the regional advocacy work conducted by the Pacific Islands Forum Reference Group to Address Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), supported their proposal to conduct national studies on the economic impacts of SGBV, and requested dissemination of the findings to all PICTs on completion.
- 25. Called for PICTs and development partners to support research regarding social and economic impacts of all forms of violence against women/SGBV, including sorcery-related violence.
- 26. Called for the elimination of SGBV and violence against women, young women and girls, including those with disabilities, and those in rural and remote locations, and for this:
  - a) enactment of effective legislation;
  - b) protection mechanisms within existing regimes; and
  - c) development of appropriate support services.
- 27. Supported access to justice for survivors of violence by the adoption of national legislation, effective legal assistance, and just and effective remedies, which involve both the formal and the non-formal (or traditional) justice systems to be addressed through the development and coordinated implementation of effective multi-sectoral national policies, strategies and programmes that include measures for prevention, protection and support services, and monitoring and evaluation.
- 28. Supported the engagement of adolescents and youth as strategic groups for ending the cycle of violence through the implementation of educational programmes, based on gender equality and human rights.
- 29. Considered the threats of human trafficking and urged regional cooperation between governments and relevant stakeholders to take immediate national and regional measures to eliminate it through:
  - a) enactment of effective legislation;
  - b) protection mechanisms within existing regimes; and
  - c) development of appropriate support services.

## | Outcomes 11th triennial conference of Pacific women |

### The Conference recommended:

- a. that PICTs take a zero tolerance approach to violence against women, in accordance with the Cairns Communiqué, and adequately resource this work;
- b. that PICTs continue to strengthen national activities and programmes to end violence against women and to ensure that priority is given to resourcing services to support and empower women who have experienced violence;
- c. that PICTs fulfil their regional and international commitments to end violence against women, including under CEDAW, the PPA, BPA, ICPD and Cairns and Port Vila Communiqués;
- d. that national governments establish formal mechanisms to address violence against women, such as strengthening or establishing action committees and providing training on eliminating violence against women that includes both men and women and comprises relevant ministries, national women's machineries, NGOs, faith-based organisations and tertiary institutions, health and education organisations and women's rights activists, to provide a multi-sectoral response to such violence;
- e. that PICTs and development partners adequately resource and support national women's machineries to continue to play a role in leading this work within government;
- f. that all PICTs develop a policy and national action plan to eliminate violence against women to guide work at the national level;
- g. that PICTs, with the support of development partners, collect globally comparable nationally representative data on violence against women and undertake research on the impact this violence has on women's lives; this research should cover a broad range of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual violence, incest and trafficking; it should also include collection by the legal and health systems of data on cases of violence against women;
- h. that rights-based awareness campaigns to prevent violence against women be developed by PICTs to:
  - i. engage with media organisations to encourage their support
  - ii. target young people through school curricula and through women's and youth organisations
  - iii. engage with men, as has been done for example through the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre initiative on male advocacy training
  - iv. work with faith-based organisations and leaders
  - v. work with influential national leaders, including members of parliaments, prime ministers, presidents and traditional leaders;
- i. that the UNiTE Campaign to End Violence Against Women be tailored specifically to the Pacific and be implemented across all sectors for the next 5 years;
- j. that PICTs and SPC integrate elimination of violence against women in all their work on culture (custom and tradition);
- k. that PICTs provide adequate legal aid and support for legal institutions to ensure that women, including rural women, women with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women and other vulnerable groups of women, are able to access justice;
- l. that PICTs develop comprehensive legislation on violence against women and reform existing laws to ensure that they comply with international human rights conventions, including CRC and CEDAW;
- m. that ministries of justice prioritise training of the judiciary and prosecutors on gender equality and violence against women, drawing on the support of relevant regional organisations;
- n. that ministries of health adopt medical protocols for collecting evidence on sexual and gender-based violence to be used in court cases;
- o. that work be expanded to sensitise police to issues of gender equality and violence against women to ensure that they respond appropriately to cases of such violence, including through proper record keeping;
- p. that PICTs, with development partner support, strengthen legal systems to prosecute and punish perpetrators of violence against women, including through provision for custodial sentences where appropriate, and re-education programmes;
- q. that PICTs, with development partner support, strengthen legal systems to respond adequately to child protection matters, including appropriate prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of child abuse and management of their reintegration into the community to ensure children's safety;
- r. that PICTs and development partners expand their support for crisis centres and support services at the provincial level and in rural areas, for women and children who have experienced violence;
- s. that the national health sector in PICTs be adequately supported to address violence against women and children, including through training of health professionals and the development of protocols and guidelines in accordance with international standards;
- t. that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO, SPC and other partners support regional capacity building of health workers in the area of violence against women and health and provide coordinated assistance to integrate such training into national health systems;

- u. that the biennial Ministers of Health Meeting prioritise programmes to address the health impacts of violence against women and children;
  - v. that health ministries ensure services are available for women and girls who have experienced sexual assault and incest, including access to emergency contraception, confidential counselling, HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and abortion services;
  - w. that UNIFEM Pacific and partners support PICTs to establish minimum standards for support services, including crisis services and counselling.
19. The Conference notes the rights and the particular vulnerability and needs of marginalised groups, including LBT women, women with HIV, and women with disabilities, and urges governments, national women's machineries, women's organisations and crisis services to ensure that support services address the needs of these women when they have experienced violence.

## | Communiqué 5th Women Ministers meeting |

### The Ministers

- noted the increased incidence and reporting of sorcery-related violence, including murder, against women in some PICTs. The ministers also recognised the need to establish measures to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence, including sorcery-related violence, and to address its causes, consequences and impacts in compliance with human rights frameworks.
- recognised the high prevalence rates of violence against women, young women and girls, including those with disabilities, and the impact of gambling, drug and substance abuse on increasing violence and on sexual reproductive health and rights, and called for urgent and increased investment in policies, programmes, research and legislative reforms that provide services and support, including access to rights and justice.
- recognised the threat of human trafficking and urged regional cooperation between governments and relevant stakeholders to take immediate national action to eliminate it by developing and implementing legislation, protection mechanisms, and appropriate support services.

## | Moana Declaration – Outcome statement of Pacific Parliamentarians for | population and Development (2014)

Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls integrate responses to gender-based violence in all SRH programmes and services.

## | Fifth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability |

5. d) Eliminating violence against women and girls with disabilities and creating safe spaces and taking into account the role of families and caregivers



## Leadership and Decision Making

### | 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration |

- Adopt measures, including temporary special measures (such as legislation to establish reserved seats for women and political party reforms), to accelerate women's full and equal participation in governance reform at all levels and women's leadership in all decision making.
- Advocate for increased representation of women in private sector and local level governance boards and committees (e.g. school boards and produce market committees).

### | Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2004) |

- Create an environment that is conducive for women to stand for elections;
- Take affirmative action by promoting and putting in place policies and practices that enhance gender parity in political representation.
- Promote and strengthen the practice of shared decision-making within the family and within their communities.
- Take an affirmative approach by encouraging capable women of our society to participate in politics at all levels of decision-making in various institutions.
- Provide security mechanisms for women candidates in the national general elections
- Encourage equal participation of men and women in public life, in political parties, statutory bodies and Boards and management roles in governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.
- Undertake multi-sectoral approach to investment in the national machinery of women, involving key government ministries including MOW, MOF, MNP working together to mainstream gender issues and concerns throughout the government processes.

### | Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women |

26. Acknowledged the importance of creating temporary special measures (TSMs) and appropriate strategies to increase political and public participation and representation for women – including young women, indigenous women and those with disabilities – at all levels of government, including traditional systems,

### | Outcomes 11th triennial conference of Pacific women |

#### The Conference recommended:

- a. that PICTs, with technical and financial assistance of development partners, intensify efforts to create and foster an enabling environment to promote women's equal role in decision-making at all levels, including through:
  - i. constitutional and legislative reform
  - ii. electoral reform
  - iii. policy development
  - iv. support to mechanisms enabling women to overcome barriers posed by their multiple roles and responsibilities e.g. addressing conditions of employment, labour laws and childcare services;
- b. that PICTs, with technical and financial assistance from development partners, continue to improve advocacy for women's leadership and the empowerment of women as leaders, including through:
  - i. community and voter awareness
  - ii. information and training for women who wish to enter public life at all levels including village administrations, local government, public boards and committees and national government
  - iii. training and capacity building for women in decision-making positions including in parliamentary procedures and good governance
  - iv. training and support for bringing young women into public life and decision-making
  - v. advocacy with traditional leaders and leaders of faith-based organisations to recognise the importance of and support women in public life and decision-making
  - vi. documentation and sharing of success stories of women in public life and decision-making

- vii. use of the media and community organisations in advocacy and empowerment activities;
- c. that further research be carried out on how PICT electoral systems hinder women's effective participation, in order to accelerate progress in and an acceptance of the enactment of temporary special measures;
- d. that a regional action plan on women, peace and security be developed;
- e. that PICTs develop, with development partner support, national action plans on women, peace and security where appropriate;
- f. that SPC and PIFS develop a mechanism to ensure women's participation in public life is addressed in high level regional meetings such as SPC's Conference of the Pacific Community and CRGA, the Pacific Islands Forum meetings, the Melanesian Spearhead Group and the Pacific Small Island Developing States group.

### | Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |

Women with disabilities appointed to leadership positions within government ministries, PSOs, DPOs and CSOs;

### | Moana Declaration – Outcome statement of Pacific Parliamentarians for | population and Development (2014)

Increase women's and young people's participation in decision-making and in political, social and economic processes at all levels;

### | Fifth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability |

- 3. c) Nurturing and strengthening the leadership capacity of existing and emerging leaders, including women and youth, through training and mentoring
- 5. b) Building capacity of women with disabilities in lobbying skills for better advocacy to influence mainstream gender frameworks and national development agendas

## Mechanisms for Gender Equality

### | 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration |

- Incorporate articles from the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) into legislative and statutory reforms and policy initiatives across government;
- Support the production and use of sex disaggregated data and gender analysis to inform government policies and programs;
- Strengthen consultative mechanisms with civil society groups, including women's advocacy groups, on key budget and policy issues of national and sub-national governments.

### | Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2004)

- National machineries for women to be sufficiently financed and resourced with increased number of professional and technical staff necessary for gender mainstreaming efforts in policy and legislative processes and capacity-building support for other government ministries and departments.
- Where the ministry for women does not exist that the NMW is placed within central policy coordinating ministries such as Finance or National Planning.
- Establishment of gender policy and planning units in the offices of the prime minister or president, finance and planning departments or equivalent policy-making departments.
- Integrate and institutionalise gender mainstreaming efforts throughout government.
- Raise awareness of gender issues in policies and budgets, promote political will amongst relevant senior officials and politicians to integrate a gender perspective into policies and budgets and establish effective monitoring and enforcement system of incentives and/or penalties
- Support and recognise non-governmental women's organisations, and high level processes by which representatives of stakeholders concerned with women's interests and gender equality are consulted and have input into government policy and programmes that impact on the lives of women.
- Ensure at national and regional levels that the necessary disaggregated data is readily available to monitor the progress in the future implementation of the platforms for action. The monitoring to be conducted by NMW senior officials in their Triennial meetings followed by a regional Ministers' meeting to review progress in the implementation of the PPA.
- Request national statistics offices to collect data based on the revised PPA gender indicators.
- Support Pacific Women's Bureau's mandate in employing a social and gender statistician to assist the work of member countries; establish a database for PPA indicators; in conjunction with other agencies, work to improve the collection and analysis of gender data and statistical gender sensitivity; and contribute to other monitoring initiatives.
- Ensure that in addition to the current staffing complement, more policy and technical staff are recruited by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to meet the new roles envisaged for the Pacific Women's Bureau in the future.
- PWB to consider sub-regional mechanisms including sub-regional desks.

### | Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women |

Strengthening institutional mechanisms and support for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment was discussed in several areas: statistical information for improved evidence-based policy-making and advocacy; the gender mainstreaming approach; national machineries for women and their role; and the role of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP). Regional mechanisms of note to support the advancement of women include the Forum Reference Group to Address Sexual and Gender Based Violence and the Regional Peace and Security Action Plan and Working Group – the first regional action plan in the world.

#### **The conference:**

14. Acknowledged ongoing regional work to compile gender indicators and supported the establishment of a regular monitoring and reporting system across sectors in all PICTs.
15. Acknowledged and supported ongoing capacity building of national statistics offices, planning departments and sectoral agencies of governments, including national women's machineries (NWMs) to collect, analyse and use gender statistics, and urged SPC to increase capacity to supply training and technical assistance to all PICTs to improve their statistics on gender.

16. Supported capacity development of NWMs, other government institutions, and civil society organisations (CSOs) on gender mainstreaming, and called on PICTs to enhance support for the capacity development and adequate resourcing for NWMs to support the process of gender mainstreaming.
17. Called for public service commissioners to mainstream gender within the public service, including strengthening human resource development policies to advance gender equality.
18. Acknowledged the need to strengthen engagement between government and CSOs, including shared resourcing arrangements and clarity of roles and responsibilities to achieve goals in advancing gender equality.
19. Commended the development and endorsement of the Pacific Regional Action Plan: Women, Peace and Security 2012–2015, and recognised the complementarity of it to the RPPA and supporting instruments on gender equality.
20. Encouraged development partners, including CROP agencies, to establish and strengthen efforts to mobilise resources for its implementation.
21. Endorsed the review of the RPPA, and requested SPC to take the lead in this process with the support of PIFS and other CROP agencies, in consultation with all PICTs, taking into consideration the need to harmonise RPPA reporting with other regional and international mechanisms and to accelerate gender mainstreaming across all programmes.

### | Outcomes 11th triennial conference of Pacific women |

11. **The Conference recommended:**
  - a. that the Pacific Islands Forum, SPC's Conference of the Pacific Community and Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA), CEOs of CROP agencies and heads of donor and development partner agencies recognise the slow pace of progress in implementing national, regional and international commitments to gender equality, and the importance of significantly accelerating progress for the benefit of all Pacific Island peoples, communities and nations;
  - b. that a process be developed and agreed by CROP CEOs, the Pacific Islands Forum and SPC's Conference of the Pacific Community and CRGA to strengthen national and regional multi-sectoral institutional systems and structures, to provide a regional roadmap for better implementation of gender equality commitments;
  - c. that the process include agreement for an appropriately resourced multi-year programme for strengthening national women's machineries as catalysts for the implementation of national, regional and international gender equality commitments, including through strengthening their human and financial resources, technical capacity and institutional systems;
  - d. further, that the process include: agreement and appropriate resources to obtain input from national women's machineries and integrate at least one representative of national women's machineries per subregion and a regional sectoral gender expert as official delegates in each key regional sectoral meeting; agreed systems and targets for strengthening the pool and staffing of regional gender experts; and agreed systems and targets for achieving all other recommendations relevant to institutional strengthening made herein;
  - e. that the Pacific Islands Forum, SPC's Conference of the Pacific Community and CRGA, and CROP CEOs endorse the development of the process, for adoption no later than 2012;
  - f. that the development and implementation of the process be supported with appropriate human and financial resources.
13. **The Conference:**
  - a. endorsed the development by SPC of a multi-year programme to further institutionalise the SPC gender statistics framework throughout the Pacific Island region, including: providing technical and financial support to governments (national women's machineries, national statistical offices and other government agencies) and civil society to collect, compile, analyse, disseminate and use gender statistics; compiling baseline data for the framework across all PICTs; and developing a regional online and hard copy Atlas of Pacific Women that includes regional, subregional, national and sub-national data;
  - b. encouraged SPC to implement the multi-year programme and to allocate and seek appropriate human and financial resources.

### | Communiqué 5th Women Ministers meeting |

6. The ministers recognised the need for Pacific Island ministers and parliamentarians to be made aware of gender issues using, for example, parliamentary select committees and advocacy committees.
 

**The Ministers:**

endorsed the need for harmonisation of reporting to minimise costs and reduce the administrative burden on PICTs. Ministers also called for CROP agencies and development partners to provide technical and financial support for PICTs reporting

on international commitments, including CEDAW and the Universal Periodic Review. Ministers recommended that work in reporting harmonisation be a core part of the review of the RPPA. Ministers also noted the growing importance of data for national planning and policy development, and requested assistance with training and capacity building in data collection, especially filling data gaps, and analysis.

called for the strengthening of national women's machineries, in particular considering their placement in national governments, institutional strengthening, and enhanced resourcing. Ministers also emphasised the need for renewed commitment by governments, CROP agencies and development partners to support national efforts to support gender equality.

### | Communiqué 4th Women Ministers meeting |

#### **The Ministerial Meeting acknowledged the need for :**

- strengthening and utilising existing structures such as through Parliamentary Select Committees, including targeted technical assistance to create sensitivity and build the awareness of parliamentarians on gender issues, gender mainstreaming and women's human rights;
- targeted gender-sensitised capacity building and training for law enforcement agencies and government officials – further noting the need for the utilisation and strengthening of existing government mechanisms to incorporate gender issues;
- governments to recognise and utilise the expertise of civil society organisations and the private sector in efforts to advance gender equality;
- raising the awareness of gender mainstreaming issues at the national and regional levels;
- considering further how to raise the profile of and give higher priority to the role and work of national women's machineries by placing them within strategic government departments, such as the Office of the Prime Minister or Office of the President, in order to provide a gender perspective in all national and policy discussions;

- development partners and donors to ensure that financial, technical assistance and programming integrates and addresses gender issues and supports gender analysis and mainstreaming across government sectors;
- creation of an enabling environment for national women's machineries, to gain better access to development partners;
- increased support for the compilation and analysis of gender data and statistics to improve policy advocacy, implementation, monitoring and reporting;
- men's support to enable women's participation in decision-making, particularly in customary and community-based structures. Ministers further noted the need to strengthen existing traditional structures and systems to promote women's participation at community level;
- profiling the reality of life for francophone women at regional and international levels, using accurate data and statistics; and
- facilitating the participation of Pacific French-speaking territories at regional and international fora.

### | Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |

When mainstreaming disability into policies, programmes and services, it is important that women are explicitly identified. This is to ensure that they have equal access to development opportunities, representation in government decision-making, and sexual and reproductive health services, and that their special vulnerabilities to intersectional discrimination including all forms of violence are addressed.

Persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, actively participate in the development of new policy and are included in policy and programme reviews and evaluations at both national and regional levels (CRPD Article 29; Incheon Target 2.A);

### | Fifth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability |

1. a) Ensuring that everyone, including children and young people, women and men and ALL people with disabilities are included and have their voices heard in all representation and engagement efforts



## Peace and Security

### | Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of | Women and Gender Equality (2004)

- Promote peace by integrating peace/conflict resolution course content in formal and non-formal educational institutions.
- Implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which provides a comprehensive framework for the promotion and support of the protection of women and their role in peace building at all levels of our society right from the family unit.
- Promote peace by integrating traditional methodologies of reconciliation in the peace processes
- Recognise and enhance women's inclusion in early warning systems, conflict prevention peace processes and negotiations and post conflict reconstruction
- Recognises the need to address the processes of peace and justice in decision- making and conflict resolutions.
- Make use of regional and international organisations to conduct gender sensitivity training for peacekeepers so as to ensure that they are sensitive to issues on the ground
- Utilise the provisions under the Biketawa Declaration to proactively monitor national security situations with the view to averting potential conflicts and resolving possible conflicts by peaceful means.
- Develop, put in place and resource national disaster mitigation and response plans to protect against loss of life and property in times of natural disasters.





## Climate Change

### | Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women |

73. Encouraged CROP agencies and development partners to increase and strengthen efforts to mainstream gender into climate change and disaster risk management in the delivery of services to PICTs, recognising women's cultural knowledge and skills as custodians of the environment,

and emphasised the importance of the production of sex-disaggregated data and indicators to monitor the impacts of adaptation and mitigation initiatives and increase institutional capacity.

### | Communiqué 5th Women Ministers meeting |

#### The Ministers

recognised that climate change is one of the most serious threats to the lives of Pacific people, as it can have a devastating impact on people, their land, and their culture. Climate change affects women and men differently. Recognising this, the ministers called for a fundamental shift in policy approach to

an approach that incorporates a gender perspective in climate change programmes and initiatives, as well as in regional and international negotiations to support the advancement of gender equality.

### | Communiqué 4th Women Ministers meeting |

#### The ministers:

- 1) reiterated the need for a multidimensional approach to climate change adaptation as recommended by the Pacific Beijing + 15 review report;
- 2) noted the need for greater and effective participation of women in the identification of climate change issues, the design of local and national policies and strategies, the implementation of adaptation and mitigation programmes and the overall decision-making processes at all levels and in the global negotiation process;
- 3) confirmed the need for gender analysis to be incorporated in strategic planning, programming and results-based implementation of climate change programmes and the production of sex-disaggregated data and indicators to monitor the impacts of adaptation and mitigation initiatives;
- 4) recommended further research on the gender and human rights dimension of climate change;
- 5) recommended capacity building of government and civil society organisations to mainstream gender in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in all sectors;
- 6) recognised the value and requested documentation of local and traditional knowledge maintained by both women and men alongside scientific knowledge, to facilitate adaptation and mitigation efforts to building resilience in communities to respond to climate change in the Pacific Islands;
- 7) agreed that climate change funding priorities should be gender responsive and ensure accessibility to address the needs of and benefit both women and men and recommend capacity building of the government to effectively manage climate change funds to this end;
- 8) advised strengthening collaboration and partnership between national women's machineries and climate change departments and ministries as well as other organisations and stakeholders;
- 9) strongly urged government delegations to incorporate gender equality and human rights principles in all areas of regional and global negotiations in relation to climate change; and
- 10) called for gender and climate change issues to be incorporated into outcome statements of regional and international meetings.



## Human rights of Women

### | Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women |

27. Acknowledged the need to ensure that discrimination faced by women, young women, and girls with disabilities and their particular vulnerability to SGBV and poverty be recognised in line with CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and supported

evidence-based studies by PICTs (with the support of development partners) to improve knowledge and data on women with disabilities for improved policy and programming.

### | Outcomes 11th triennial conference of Pacific women |

#### The Conference noted:

- a. the importance of ensuring that women's legal and human rights are secured in country constitutions through the inclusion of substantive gender equality provisions that make all forms of discrimination against women illegal;
- b. the need for ongoing assistance for the ratification, reporting and implementation of CEDAW, including ensuring that all legislation is CEDAW-compliant;
- c. the benefits of using 'model' CEDAW-compliant legislation in all areas of law in which women are subject to discrimination;
- d. the distressingly high rates of violence against women that have been revealed by national studies;
- e. that commitments made at regional and national level to eliminating violence against women and girls must be backed by policy and budgetary support;
- f. the lack of legislative measures, policies and plans for the elimination of violence against women and girls;
- g. that globally, PICTs (excluding the French territories) have the lowest representation of women in legislatures;
- h. that Pacific governments need to expedite legislative reform to implement temporary special measures and affirmative action for women in terms of electoral quotas, education and employment.

#### 16. The Conference recommended:

- a. that reviews of CEDAW legislative compliance be updated by countries and/or development agencies and that PICTs not yet reviewed, including the French territories, undertake CEDAW legislative compliance reviews;
- b. that PICTs accelerate work to ratify, report on and implement CEDAW and that development agencies provide technical assistance and funding for this and assist NGOs to produce alternative (shadow) reports;

- c. that PICTs review customary laws and practices for compliance with CEDAW;
- d. that SPC and development partners increase support to intensify awareness-raising, training and capacity building on CEDAW in PICTs, with such training to include consideration of the varied situations of different groups of women (for example indigenous, minority, rural and disabled women) and case studies from the region documenting how CEDAW legislative compliance has improved the situation of women;
- e. that SPC and development partners undertake a regional scoping to identify examples of good-practice model CEDAW-compliant legislation in the Pacific region (and globally) and make the examples available online and in hard copy for reference of PICTs;
- f. that SPC and development partners continue to provide technical and financial support to assist in the development of good practice CEDAW-compliant legislation as needed by PICTs;
- g. that SPC and development partners continue to provide technical and financial support to encourage governments and civil society stakeholders to utilise the Universal Periodic Review process to identify and address gender equality issues;
- h. that relevant ministries of Pacific Island countries invite the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women to the region to assist governments to undertake legislative reform on violence against women.

**The ministers noted the need for:**

- continued support for ratification, reporting, implementation and monitoring of CEDAW, including increased provision of budgetary and technical resources to support these processes;
- provision of additional budgetary support to enable drafting and implementation of legislation to address gender inequality, including violence against women;
- integration of francophone territories into the French CEDAW report, including support the establishment of a CEDAW committee in Wallis and Futuna;
- provision of external technical support at national level, integrating women’s human rights and ensuring that leaders and key stakeholders understand its linkages with other sectors, such as information and communications technology, economics, infrastructure, agriculture and health;
- gender training for women in leadership, with a strong emphasis on research, legal literacy, empowerment, and civic and voter education;
- local knowledge to be merged with external technical advice and support at national level;
- the adoption of short-term strategies such as temporary special measures, for example legally enacted quotas providing for reserved seats for women, which in combination with awareness raising and capacity building, will contribute to overcoming entrenched discrimination against women and to their advancement in political decision-making in the long term.
- ratification, domestication, localisation and implementation of core human rights conventions such as CEDAW, CRC, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment; the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

## References

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). 2010. Outcomes 11th triennial conference of Pacific women Communiqué 4th Women Ministers meeting. Noumea. See: [http://www.spc.int/hdp/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&gid=79&Itemid=44](http://www.spc.int/hdp/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=79&Itemid=44)

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). 2013. Outcomes 12th triennial conference of Pacific women: Recommendations and Outcomes. Cook Islands See: <https://www.scribd.com/document/183150738/Recommendations-and-outcomes-of-the12th-Triennial-Conference-of-Pacific-Women>

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). 2004 Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality. Noumea. See: <http://www.pacmas.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Revised-Pacific-Platform.pdf>

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). 2016 Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Federated States of Micronesia. See: [http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/2016\\_Forum\\_Communique\\_11sept.pdf](http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/2016_Forum_Communique_11sept.pdf)

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). 2012 Pacific Leaders’ Gender Equality Declaration. Cook islands. See: <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2012%20Forum%20Communique,%20Rarotonga,%20Cook%20Islands%2028-30%20Aug1.pdf>

Pacific Conference of Parliamentarians for Advocacy on ICPD beyond. 2014 Moana Declaration – Outcome statement of Pacific Parliamentarians for population and Development. Fiji. See: <http://icpdtaskforce.org/resources/PACIFICCONFERENCEOFPARLIAMENTARIANSFORADVOCACYONICPDBEYOND2014OutcomeStatement.pdf>

## List of Abbreviations

BPA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRGA	Committee of Representatives and Governments and Administrations
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Council on the Status of Women
DPO	Disability People’s Organization
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FEMM	Forum Economic Ministers Meeting
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LBT	Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender
MDGs	Millenium Developmetn Goals
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NWM	National Women’s Machinery (ref. department in charge of women’s affairs)
PICTA	Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PICTs	Pacific Islands Countries and Territories
PPA	Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality
RPPA	Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SMEs	Small and Micro Entreprises
SPC	Pacific Community
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Sexual Transmissible Infection
TSM	Temporary Special Measures
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNFPA	United Nations Population Funds
WHO	World Health Organisation