



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC WOMEN AND SEVENTH MEETING OF PACIFIC MINISTERS FOR WOMEN

Prepared by the Pacific Community



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Original text: English

Pacific Community Cataloguing-in-publication data

Proceedings of the fourteenth triennial conference of Pacific women and seventh meeting of Pacific ministers for women / prepared by the Pacific Community

1. Women — Oceania.
2. Women in development — Oceania.
3. Women — Oceania — Statistics.
4. Gender — Oceania.
5. Women — Violence against — Oceania.
6. Gender mainstreaming — Oceania.
7. Climatic changes — Law and legislation — Oceania.

I. Title II. Pacific Community

305. 30995

AACR2

ISBN: 978-982-00-1415-2

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Suva, Fiji, 2021



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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC WOMEN

27–29 April 2021

Virtual conference hosted by French Polynesia

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**Theme:** Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future –  
Empowering All Women in the Blue Pacific Continent

## Opening

1. The Chair of the meeting, representing the host country French Polynesia, Ravahere Rauzy, Ministry for Family, Social Affairs and Women, welcomed participants. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) was elected as Vice Chair of the conference. (The meeting agenda is in Annex 1).
2. The Pacific Community (SPC) Director-General, Dr Stuart Minchin, also welcomed participants, noting that due to COVID-19, the conference had been postponed in 2020 and was now being held virtually. However, this had allowed more than 1000 participants to register (Annex 2), making it one of the largest conferences ever organised by SPC and demonstrating the importance of the subject. The pandemic has added to the climate challenges in Pacific Island countries and territories. It has also highlighted the important roles of women, especially in carrying out unpaid work such as care and family work.
3. His Excellency Édouard Fritch, President of French Polynesia, focused his address on the overarching theme of the conference: Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future – Empowering All Women in the Blue Pacific Continent. He observed that the ocean is key to Pacific peoples’ existence and highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge and the role of women in continuing that existence.



Supplied, French Polynesia

French Polynesian writer and poet, Flora Aurima Devatine, at the launch of the Beijing+25 review report

4. The Honourable Isabelle Sachet, French Polynesia’s Minister for Family, Social Affairs and Women, observed that while COVID-19 is challenging the advances made towards gender equality, it also offers an opportunity to reset a more inclusive path.
5. The conference’s three priority areas were:
  1. Women’s economic empowerment.
  2. Gender-based violence.
  3. Gender-responsive climate justice.

Its four cross-cutting themes were:

1. Women in leadership and decision-making.
2. Crises and disasters.
3. Sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) and statistics.
4. Intergenerational dialogue to ensure the perspectives of Pacific youth are heard.

Thematic briefs summarising the key issues under the three priority areas were circulated to participants before the conference (Annex 3).

6. Nineteen side events were held around the main sessions. These are summarised in Annex 4 along with recommendations arising from the events, which fed into the discussion of conference outcomes.

## Launch of regional Beijing+25 review report

7. French Polynesian writer and poet, Flora Aurima Devatine, described the origins of the movement for gender equality in the Pacific, key steps along the pathway, and the importance of the current conference. She emphasised the role of women and the creative arts. Women produce, create and write to make their voice heard across the Pacific region and to reach across barriers. She officially launched the publication ‘Beijing+25: Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories’.

## High-level ministerial session

8. This session was convened to enable ministers to engage with Triennial Conference participants at the beginning of the meeting, focusing on the three priority areas. It was also an opportunity to showcase the high level of the ministers' engagement in the meeting and encourage continued discussions between governments and civil society.

### The Honourable Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Australia

9. The Minister acknowledged the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic during the past year. Many industries that traditionally employ women have declined, while their unpaid domestic and care work has increased, as has violence against women. But the pandemic also provides an opportunity to change course. Women have a key part to play in the path to recovery, and women leaders have stood out in the fight against COVID. Australia recognises this role, which was also central to discussions at the Pacific Forum Leaders meeting in 2020.
10. The Minister announced a new regional gender programme called Pacific Women Lead, which will be funded by Australia (AUD 170 million over five years). The programme will work with Pacific and women's organisations to promote issues relating to women and gender in a flexible way, responding to partners' needs. The programme aims to strengthen women as leaders, and also address women's rights to safety, health, economic empowerment, etc. The new programme reflects the importance of strengthening women's leadership. 'We need to use all our resources and potential to meet the challenges of the future – that means 100 per cent of our populations'.

### The Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji

11. COVID has revealed and intensified the precarious situation of women and girls – across the world and in the Pacific – in terms of their economic security, physical safety, health, and involvement in decision-making. However, crises can also open up opportunities. The Pacific region can move on to a better path to gender equality. The conference provided an opportunity to start 'building back better' for all women and girls. This depended on: (1) leadership, commitment and action to prevent violence against women and girls; (2) addressing the intersection between women's economic empowerment, unpaid work, safety, leadership, and climate preparedness and resilience; (3) placing women and girls at the centre of 'building back better'; and (4) gender data and statistics, which are critical for developing evidence-based policies, laws and solutions. The Minister said Fiji looked forward to a bold, action-oriented, inclusive outcomes document from the conference.



Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa addressing participants at one of the Triennial side events



## The Honourable Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau Senior, Vice President and Minister of State, Palau

12. The Minister spoke on behalf of the Micronesia subregion – the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, RMI and Palau. Micronesia continues to lead the way in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the Pacific. The 2017 Micronesian Women’s Conference and resulting declaration provided a platform for Micronesian leaders to advance action for gender equality. There are many examples of recent initiatives to strengthen legal and policy frameworks, such as the gender equality bill in RMI, gender mainstreaming policy in Palau, and reform of labour and employment law in FSM. Micronesian leaders approved a standing gender equality committee as part of the Micronesia Islands Forum, demonstrating high-level commitment to gender issues. RMI convened the first Pacific Women Leaders Coalition Conference, and has incorporated gender in its nationally determined contributions (NDC) framework – a global first. Other examples include support for victims of sexual assault in Guam, increased maternity leave in FSM, and legislation for family protection in Kiribati. Traditional knowledge and philosophies underpin thinking and are shaping the development discourse in the subregion. Nauru hosted its first national women’s summit, with intergenerational dialogue an important feature. Micronesian governments recognise that women are active agents of change. The pandemic calls for ‘building back better and greener’ – women are central to that and must be fully engaged. Mainstreaming enables mobilisation of a whole-of-government, multi-sectoral response to gender.

## The Honourable Reverend Dr Pōhiva Tu’i’onea, Prime Minister of Tonga

13. The Prime Minister discussed Tonga’s progress on gender equality at government level. COVID-19 has shown the need to address the most vulnerable people, including frontline workers, the disabled, the elderly, and women and girls. Gender-based violence has increased under COVID-19 and services have been improved in response. There is genuine political will in Tonga to address equality and eliminate violence against women and girls. To this end, Tonga has enacted laws and policies, for example, the Family Protection Act 2013. The Tongan government has increased women’s participation in programmes to help achieve its objectives of gender equality. Women’s voices and experience are vital in the fight against climate change. Tonga is working to mainstream gender, with support from SPC, in areas such as fisheries and agriculture.

## Comments by Samoa

14. Samoa has made significant progress towards women’s empowerment. There is a notable shift in gender roles, with women taking on leadership responsibilities in their communities and in government. The Samoan parliament recently endorsed five national policies on gender equality and women’s empowerment. Advances have been made in addressing all three theme areas, i.e. gender-based violence, gender-responsive approaches to climate change, and women’s economic empowerment.

## Plenary: Women's economic empowerment

**Moderator:** Mareva Lechat-Kitalong,  
Adviser and Legal Counsel,  
Office of the President, French Polynesia

15. Ms Lechat-Kitalong said empowering women in terms of their economic opportunities was potentially a 'game changer' for families, communities and countries. Ending discrimination in job opportunities, pay, and responsibilities for unpaid domestic and care work were some of the key issues to be addressed.

The session began with specific questions to the panellists, followed by questions from the floor. It offered opportunities to hear stories of how women have overcome hurdles and to be inspired by their stories.



**Dr Manuamata Vai Tupou-Roosen,**  
Director-General, Pacific Islands  
Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

16. *In the Pacific fisheries sector, there are many women in the workforce, but they are not well represented in senior roles. What are the issues, and what is FFA doing to redress this?*

FFA is working to identify and remove barriers to women in fisheries, especially around job segregation and the lack of women in leadership. The fisheries sector makes a significant contribution to our economies and if we can solve this issue, more of the benefits will flow to families and communities. Globally, about half the workers in the fisheries sector are women; in the Pacific, they make up more than 70 per cent of the fish processing workforce. However, they are not well represented in management. The International Labour Organization (ILO) found that, in the seafood industry, two-thirds of female workers have faced inequality. Women also face the challenges of balancing family responsibilities with their work. These are not just ethical issues. It also makes economic sense that women have equality at work. More research, data collection and analysis are needed, especially to develop information on the formal and informal sectors and at household level. FFA is addressing this issue by providing leadership training for women, and gender and social inclusion awareness training. FFA is hosting the first 'gender in fisheries' forum in the next few months and carrying out a pay audit across the tuna fishery. Sustainable development cannot happen unless everyone is involved.

17. *Financial literacy is critical for empowering women. Are there any programmes on this in the fisheries sector?*

Sustainable livelihoods are key to women's economic empowerment, and this depends on women having access to financial tools. Financial literacy is at the heart of women's economic independence. It builds their confidence in financial decision-making at home and in the community. It provides the foundation for women entrepreneurs and leaders. FFA has partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to train women in financial literacy.



Evonne Kennedy, Executive Director,  
Business Coalition for Women (BCW),  
Papua New Guinea

18. Can you expound on FFA's work on developing its gender equity framework?

The framework has been designed to remove barriers to full participation by women in all aspects of our tuna fisheries, identify appropriate gender policies, and mainstream gender. The framework approach helps to improve opportunities for women in fisheries in a systematic and cost-effective way. FFA is also actively promoting the framework in its broader engagement in the regional fisheries sector.

19. **FSM:** Is it possible that the (sometimes challenging) remote working environment made necessary by COVID-19 may be an opportunity to advance remote access to leadership and mentoring?

While face-to-face interaction may be best, remote working offers the potential to reach far more people. This is an opportunity to invest in virtual technologies and platforms, so that beyond COVID-19 we are more resilient and also able to share information more widely. The COVID-19 restrictions have also highlighted the opportunity for women to share markets, in a time when the usual markets may be out of reach (see Adi Maimalaga Tafunai's presentation below).

20. A key priority for BCW is addressing violence. What is the organisation doing specifically, and how is this improving women's economic empowerment?

Violence directly impacts women's economic empowerment. Family and sexual violence, gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and violence in the workplace all have significant costs for business and the economy. A key focus for BCW has been to try and change the organisational landscape. BCW developed a suite of policies that businesses can adopt and adapt, and also offers training on how to implement the policies within the workplace, and identify risks. When leaders understand the impacts of violence on workers, employment and the economy, they are ready to take action. So far, over 50 companies have taken up these policies and training. BCW is also advocating safety in the community; for example, when travelling to and from work. Partnerships between the private sector, government and civil society are critical to overcoming barriers and helping women. Leadership training, which was mentioned by the previous speaker, can offer great opportunities for women, but if workplace violence is not addressed and the woman returns to the same work environment, she will not be able to use her skills to lead and the business will not benefit.

21. Where has Papua New Guinea (PNG) made progress in terms of women's leadership, and what representation of women is there in the private sector?

Companies that join BCW are keen to progress gender equality. When they join, they provide baseline information on the sector they are in; how many staff they have and how many are women; how many women are in management and on boards; what policies they have on family and sexual violence, non-discrimination, etc. This information is then used to track their progress over time. Big companies that have gender key performance indicators and that are implementing diversity and social policies tend to show the most progress – demonstrating that if there is commitment within companies, change can happen.

## Heiura Itae-Tetaa, Founder, Speak Tahiti, French Polynesia

22. **New Zealand:** *Are there any programmes or support that allow a woman who is a victim of violence and wants to separate from her partner to be supported and gain financial autonomy?*

BCW's work depends heavily on the community, including when women are experiencing gender-based violence. A key public-private partnership in PNG is supporting referral pathways. This has provided a safe house and case management centre that women can access, as well as essential resources. For someone experiencing gender-based violence to remain in work, they need to be supported by the organisation, the private sector, and the community in general.

23. **Micronesia:** *Is there a business hub where women across the region can access and exchange business ideas, solutions, etc.?*

There is no formal business hub for women, although there is a hub run by the Centre for International Private Enterprise. Women would benefit from a regional business hub where they could share knowledge and resources.



24. *What do you understand by women's economic empowerment, and why is it important?*

The speaker described her experiences in setting up a new and innovative business in which she shares and teaches her local language, Tahitian. Women should be supported in entrepreneurial and creative activities. For example, they should be able to participate in free government programmes that aim to foster business growth. Innovation by women needs to be promoted.

25. *How can we better mainstream gender across programmes for women's economic empowerment?*

Young people want to see change. There are examples of programmes in French Polynesia targeting young people and also less privileged groups, providing leadership training. This kind of training empowers and leads to jobs. The Pacific region needs to transform patriarchal structures in countries' social, economic and cultural sectors. When gender is mainstreamed across society, people are empowered and there is growth in entrepreneurship and businesses led by women.

26. **Solomon Islands:** *Can you share any experience of women in the formal sector being allowed flexible hours of work?*

Experiencing flexible working taught the speaker to be well organised in her work. Times are changing and people want flexibility in terms of jobs evolving or being able to change jobs, for example. They are also seeking meaning in what they do to earn a living.

27. **Nauru:** *Are there any cultural issues or challenges in teaching or sharing the native language?*

Indigenous languages, which are a vital part of traditional culture, are at risk of being lost. For decades, speaking indigenous languages was not allowed in Tahiti and other Pacific Island countries. Now this is changing, and ICT and related technologies are enabling change and helping to conserve traditional culture.

Adi Maimalaga Tafunai, Executive Director,  
Women in Business Development Inc.,  
Samoa

Una Valenitabua,  
Program Manager,  
Australian Volunteers Program

28. *Is there reliable data on women's economic empowerment, and why is it difficult to access such data?*

There is not enough data on women working in the informal sector. There are many players in the informal sector, but collection of information is poor. The Pacific is diverse and it is important to recognise this to ensure data is collected across different cultures.

29. *How can we better collect data on women's empowerment to strengthen advocacy and policy efforts?*

Working together in partnerships is critical. Government ministries collect data, but others also need to contribute. All organisations, small or large, should be collecting data and feeding it into a central system, so that all are contributing. Different groups will collect different data, but it is all valid and needs to be included.

30. **Kiribati:** *Rural women and girls have fewer economic opportunities compared to urban women and girls. How could an empowerment programme address this in areas such as fisheries, agriculture and micro-business?*

To introduce new income-generating activities, you need to work with the family rather than the individual. It is important to get the whole family involved, so that all members understand the changes when people are to work in new areas. One idea that has been highlighted by COVID-19 is women sharing markets. For example, where there is a large market, and producers are small or have difficulty accessing the market, women can join together to supply the market demand.

31. **Micronesia:** *Is there a business hub where women across the region can access and exchange business ideas, solutions etc.?*

There is no formal business hub for women, but Women in Business has been doing this informally in the Pacific for a long time. Its experiences in this area are valuable and should be shared.

32. *What are the challenges in addressing women's economic empowerment in relation to unpaid work?*

This story provides an example: A 17-year-old woman with a learning disability looks after the family, but she falls and injures herself. Her aunt comes to take care of the family while the young woman is unable to. This is all unpaid work by women. There is no monetary value placed on it, and women doing this work have no social protection and no insurance. Women in these roles cannot accumulate money to improve their lives. This work is not recognised in formal economic measures such as gross domestic product (GDP), and yet it provides the foundation for countries' economic activities. If women do not perform these roles, others cannot go out to undertake more formal, recognised work.

33. *How has the pandemic affected women's economic empowerment?*

The pandemic has added to existing difficulties, particularly for women who live with disabilities. One of the issues is access, which is now even more challenging with COVID-19 restrictions. The volunteer programme is working with inclusive schools to build their capacity to support students through a 'skills-ready' programme. This helps bridge the gap between school and jobs through vocational training. The programme also provides training in interview skills for students with disabilities, mainly women. Because of the pandemic, there are many more people looking for work and women living with disabilities have to compete for the same employment opportunities.

34. **Vanuatu:** *Culture affects women's economic empowerment in Vanuatu. Any there any practices or success stories on this in other countries?*

To change expectations and perceptions, particularly with reference to cultural barriers, consultation is the way forward. In Fiji, for example, the expectation is that women do unpaid care work. Consultation can change mindsets at the individual, family and community level. Through consultation, men can increase their awareness and understanding, which can lead to sharing unpaid family work. This also needs supporting policy. For example, Fiji now has a parental leave policy in its labour laws.

## Plenary: Gender-based violence

(During this session, panellists answered questions, first from the moderator and later from the floor. The aim was to hear stories of hope and ways forward).

### Moderator: Ofakilevuka Guttebeil Likiliki, Director, Women and Children Crisis Centre, Tonga

35. The underlying issues for gender-based violence (GBV) are gender inequality and unequal power relations between men and women. The prevalence of GBV in the Pacific is higher than the global average of 35 per cent. COVID-19 has resulted in some funds being redirected, so there is less funding available to manage domestic violence, while that violence has been exacerbated by the pandemic. In terms of progress, all but one country in the Pacific has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); most countries have domestic violence legislation; and four countries have developed service delivery protocols (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga). The Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women has been providing support across the region for the last 30 years, with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre serving as the secretariat.

### Vaela Devesi, Director, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Solomon Islands

36. *What are some promising initiatives on addressing GBV in Solomon Islands?*

Initiatives in Solomon Islands seek to strengthen referral coordination and service provision for GBV survivors, and ensure access for women and girls in rural and remote areas. An example is SAFENET, a partnership between government, non-government and civil society that provides referral pathways to essential services for GBV survivors, such as legal advice, health services, counselling and safe accommodation. SAFENET was established in Honiara and in 2018 began expanding to the provinces. The roll-out has provided several lessons. For example, the model has had to be tailored to fit the context of the provinces, such as including community groups and leaders as entry points. The COVID-19 crisis added to the urgency and required adaptation to ensure services were available during lockdown. SAFENET has produced a guidebook and facilitated study tours from Kiribati and FSM.

A second example is the Domestic Violence Counselling Guideline developed under the Family Protection Act 2014, which provides a registry of competent and trustworthy domestic violence counsellors in all 10 provinces of Solomon Islands. There needs to be a balance between providing services for GBV survivors and acting to prevent the violence.





Teretia Tokam, Coordinator,  
Kiribati Women and Children  
Support Centre, Kiribati

37. *How do we ensure that policies and laws are responding to the needs and rights of marginalised GBV survivors, and can you give some examples?*

Research and surveys, and monitoring and reviewing policy and legislation are important in this. For example, the Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study (2009) provides baseline data, and the first review of the Family Protection Act was completed in 2020. Solomon Islands is making a conscious effort to be inclusive in policy and strategy development, supporting participation by women, girls and marginalised groups, especially in the design phase. One way to do this is to have specific consultations with women and marginalised groups ahead of the main consultations. Solomon Islands is also working to translate regional and international agreements and policies down to provincial level, so they reflect local priorities. Policies and laws need to have explicit language on how they will be inclusive, so that this happens within strategies and action plans. Plans of action should be costed from the start to ensure they are realistic and more likely to be implemented.

38. *There is a strong emphasis on response programmes, but prevention programmes are also vital. How do we ensure that response and prevention go hand in hand moving forward?*

A strong, evidence-based prevention programme is important. In Kiribati, the government has begun a Social Citizen Education Programme, with support from SPC, to train teachers, school leaders and students to integrate human rights, gender equality and social inclusion, and ending violence against women in the school curriculum. It is too early to evaluate the programme, but it is being monitored and is changing mindsets and attitudes to GBV.

39. *How can we effectively address GBV, considering the sensitivities and difficulties in collecting data?*

Data is essential to understand the extent of the problem. Data collection has to be done by people who are experienced and trained in collecting highly sensitive information. The majority of GBV survivors are women and sometimes children. It is important that they are given the right space to provide their information. Enumerators need to be well trained to 'do no harm'.

40. *What are some of the particular challenges for small island states when implementing prevention programmes?*

The islands of Kiribati are small and remote and travelling between islands is difficult. To reach women on the islands, the GBV programme is working with government social welfare officers on each island, as well as with the police and local hospitals. As an example of community-based efforts, partners including the Ministry of Women have joined together in a prevention programme called 'Strengthening peaceful villages'. The programme works with communities to help change attitudes to women and girls and address GBV at an early age.

Christina Stinnett, President,  
Chuuk Women's Council,  
Federated States of Micronesia

41. *In view of the sensitivity of GBV, what are some best-practice responses?*

Counselling centre staff in Chuuk are well trained to provide advice and support in cases of violence against women. They are trained to deliver their services sensitively, by phone or face to face. The centre has had to adapt during COVID-19 and has also used this time as an opportunity to raise awareness and highlight its services. The sensitivities around GBV have led to creativity in reaching out to women; for example, including information about counselling and contact details in COVID-19 hygiene hand-out kits, and producing an animation for COVID control called 'Staying safe at home'.

42. *In a country that is just starting to develop systems and frameworks for responding to GBV, what are some of the areas that needs strengthening and how can they be addressed?*

Chuuk has passed legislation protecting women, but there is a lack of knowledge about the law. Awareness raising across all groups, including police, teachers, medical professionals, communities and community leaders, is therefore key. One approach has been to recruit 'family champions', who are the first line of referral. They have training on GBV issues and are supported and mentored by staff at the crisis centre. Chuuk is currently working on a Family Protection Act and will work to raise awareness once it becomes law. Everyone needs to work together – women, men and leaders at all levels.

Reverend James Bhagwan,  
General Secretary for the Pacific  
Conference of Churches, Fiji

43. *How can we develop and strengthen partnerships with faith-based organisations to promote gender equality and human rights?*

A key issue for the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) is partnerships. It is important to recognise that communities are not just target audiences for advocacy programmes but are partners in addressing GBV. It is often faith that has brought people to challenge issues of injustice. Within partnerships, there is a need to develop better ways to work together, recognising different 'languages', cultures and approaches. The PCC has developed tools to help address GBV, for example, codes of conduct for church leaders, 'safe church' policies, etc. Church leaders have a role as counsellors and often act as trauma counsellors in communities, but they need training and the PCC is supporting this.

44. *Why is it important for governments and the private sector to increase financing and sustain investments for GBV legislation, policies and programmes?*

Gender inequality is a huge issue and it is pervasive at all levels of our society. Therefore, sufficient resources are required to deal with it. Resources are needed for advocacy, prevention, training, response, safe spaces and more. Funding sustainability is vital – investments need to carry through, from policy to practice, until gender equality is the norm.

45. *Can Christianity protect our vulnerable women and children, or is it no longer the case?*

Faith and theology have been manipulated through time, for example, to support colonialism and patriarchy. Some of the churches have recognised this and are working to address it. All church leaders should understand that there is no place for anything that excludes certain groups of people or prevents them from enjoying their life. According to Christianity, men and women are created equal.





46. *Can the PCC do more in developing GBV prevention policies and standards that churches in the Pacific could adopt?*

Pacific churches are not reliant on the PCC to move on this issue and many are already actively progressing this work. The role of the PCC is to support churches as they engage with the issue. Churches are at different stages in recognising gender equality. For example, some churches have been ordaining women for a long time, while others are just introducing the practice. The PPC is working with women theologians to increase the number of women in theology and is also working to transform patriarchy and 'toxic masculinity'. 'Break the silence Sunday' is a global annual event that highlights GBV and gives survivors a voice. The PCC is promoting the event in churches across the Pacific. Faith leaders should be included as partners in GBV programmes so they can provide vital support.



2017 Regional faith-based consultation

## Plenary: Gender-responsive climate justice

(The session first considered how gender and human rights-responsive programmes in the Pacific are helping to achieve climate justice, followed by questions from the floor).

**Moderator:** Noelene Nabulivou,  
feminist grassroots organiser,  
activist and advocate, Fiji

47. The moderator outlined the overarching global issues that have led to an unequal world and to systems that are threatening human rights and the environment. Fundamental changes to these systems are needed. Climate justice requires us to work on ending all forms of GBV and discrimination; addressing inequalities within and between countries; building new societal norms; reframing economics so that it serves us, other species and the planet; and building sustainable and just ecological systems.

**Eleala Avaniatele,**  
Communications Manager,  
Red Cross, Tuvalu

48. Tuvalu Red Cross volunteers receive training in emergency response and preparedness with a gender lens. Gender is integral to the organisation's operations and all its programmes. Tuvalu Red Cross encourages women, including young women, to lead during crises such as the climate crisis. To do this, they need tools and resources, and knowledge hubs and digital platforms to support their work. Providing access to knowledge and tools is an aspect of climate justice.

**Flora Vano, Country Programme Manager,**  
ActionAid, Vanuatu

49. Women's leadership is important in achieving climate justice. Climate change has a disproportionate impact on women, yet their voices are often excluded from ongoing discourses and decision-making. ActionAid's work is human rights-based, with communities at the centre. ActionAid in Vanuatu, working with the Department of Women's Affairs, has set up a network of 4000 women from communities most affected by climate change. The network provides them with a space to organise and mobilise around their priorities and is giving them a voice in government decision-making. Instead of waiting to be consulted, the women have invited decision-makers into their space to make direct interventions. Giving women a voice at this level is key to achieving gender-responsive climate justice. Women are holders of indigenous knowledge, which needs to be acknowledged and valued alongside scientific knowledge.

50. At a practical level, ActionAid in Vanuatu is empowering women, including women with disabilities, through a 'weather hub', which links them to climate services and provides training in understanding climate terminology and forecasts, for example. This project supports two-way communication between communities and those who may have solutions or support, such as the Department of Agriculture. Digidel is a private sector partner. 'Information is power' and through this project, which provides accessible information, women are becoming empowered in the face of climate change.

## Kristina Stege, Climate Envoy, Republic of the Marshall Islands

51. Gender-responsive programming is at the heart of RMI's work to address climate change and is set at the highest level of policy and legislation. For example, it is explicit in RMI's Gender Equality Act of 2019. RMI was the first country to submit gender-responsive NDC targets in 2018. All related planning, implementation and adaptation efforts are similarly gender responsive and based on human rights. In addressing the COVID-19 crisis, RMI has placed the protection of vulnerable and marginalised groups at the heart of the response. The same is true for the climate crisis. It is our lived experience that protecting the most vulnerable is the way to protect everyone. Many of the best practices and solutions come from the most vulnerable, who have built resilience and knowledge, including traditional knowledge.
52. In translating policy and legislation into reality, the local context needs to be understood and integrated. In RMI, local legends and proverbs have been used to help understand what human rights means to Marshallese and to raise awareness in communities. Across the Pacific region, there is great value placed on respecting and caring for others and this should be the foundation for climate justice in the region. RMI is developing a community consultation framework based on inclusive processes to raise awareness of climate change impacts and to understand the community situation and people's perspectives on vulnerability.
53. Regionally, RMI is working with United Nations (UN) partners on a climate and security project focused on atolls. The project is assessing climate threats, including the perspectives of young people, women and girls, and developing understanding of the potential for social conflict. RMI recently joined the Human Rights Council and is working on several initiatives that place human rights, especially those of the most vulnerable, at the centre of the debate on climate impacts and climate justice. RMI is working with Solomon Islands on a proposal to the International Maritime Organization to establish a greenhouse gas levy with proceeds going to the most vulnerable countries to support research and adaptation. In all these international negotiations, which are currently dominated by men, women's voices need to be amplified.
54. As a moral authority on climate, the Pacific family must work together to advance action that aligns with human rights, both at home and abroad. This includes enacting national legislation and implementing policies that support gender equality and human rights; providing people with the tools they need to translate policy into practice; adequate and accessible financing for gender-responsive programmes, including collecting climate- and environment-related data specific to women; recognising that vulnerable and marginalised groups bring extraordinary capacities for resilience and leadership; amplifying the voices of women and girls; providing educational tools; and using technology to the full.



## Questions from the floor

55. **Nauru:** *Is 'gender budgeting' a possibility where funds are required to be equitably distributed?*
56. **Ms Stege:** Unfortunately, there is much competition for limited funds. A whole-of-society approach, building a more resilient society, can be a way forward. For example, the pandemic has highlighted the need for more investment in the health sector, which would then directly support women and families.
57. **Ms Nabulivou:** We need to transform climate finance as a whole, to ensure the money is going to the most vulnerable countries, frontline communities, and the countries that are doing most of the work. Gender needs to be mainstreamed in climate funding, especially the stages of implementation and monitoring and evaluation. This is currently lacking. Looking at women and the paid and unpaid work they do shows that new ways of financing are needed, for example, unconditional cash transfers. Another aspect of gender budgeting is making sure women and their needs are heard in relation to budget allocations. New channels are needed for this.
58. **Ms Vano:** Gender budgeting means consulting woman to understand their priorities and allocating resources to support the issues raised.
59. **French Polynesia:** *Are there any mechanisms in place to ensure traditional or indigenous knowledge can be used to warn about climate change?*
60. **Ms Avanitele:** Tuvalu and the University of the South Pacific are working with communities on using local knowledge to anticipate weather-related crises such as cyclones or droughts.
61. **Ms Stege:** RMI's inclusive community consultation framework is a mechanism that supports access to and use of traditional knowledge. It provides a space where different groups can have a voice and it also links to the national level, so that holders of traditional knowledge can have a conversation with holders of scientific knowledge. This approach has underpinned the success of the Micronesia Challenge – the regional conservation effort.
62. **FSM:** *Can the panellists share their experiences and views on how to ensure a whole-of-community approach to climate justice? Are unique approaches needed to engage women and men?*
63. **Ms Nabulivou:** Sometimes what is needed is flexibility, to give women a space where they are safe to speak. The spaces need to be sensitive to the lived realities of women and their work. Transformative change can happen through things as simple as dialogue.
64. **Cook Islands:** *Are there any standard templates in regard to the data that should be collected for gender and climate change?*  
[The Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit](#) is a valuable resource for this.
65. The Fiji Government is undertaking a country gender assessment using the tools available to support collection of gender data. The assessment includes a section on women and the environment and the process of developing gender indicators.







# PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF PACIFIC MINISTERS FOR WOMEN AND SENIOR OFFICIALS

4 May 2021

Virtual meeting hosted by French Polynesia

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## Opening

1. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Isabelle Sachet, Minister for Family, Social Affairs and Women, French Polynesia, who welcomed government delegations and representatives and all participants (Annex 2).
2. The Chair said the previous week's conference had been a great success, with over 1000 participants from over 20 countries all working together towards the common goal of equality for Pacific women. She noted the launch of the Beijing+25 regional report, saying that the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) has contributed to significant advances in the Pacific region over the last 25 years. The main aim of the meeting was to adopt a declaration on gender equality – a symbol of unity between Pacific countries and territories.
3. SPC Director-General, Dr Stuart Minchin, noted the outcomes and recommendations of the Fourteenth Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, which captured the essence of the conference. The region now looked to the ministers to endorse the document and commit to implementing the recommendations. All countries have their own national laws and policies. However, when it comes to equality for women, Pacific Island countries and territories must together aspire to the highest goals, not fall back on the lowest common denominator. SPC is ready to support and assist members in implementing the recommendations.

### Adoption of the agenda

4. The meeting agenda (Annex 1) was adopted.

### Election of Vice Chair

5. RMI was elected Vice Chair of the meeting.



C.Perdrix / Radio1 Tahiti

Hon. Isabelle Sachet



Beijing+25 report

## Agenda item 1: Reflections on the Triennial priority areas

6. This session was chaired by Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), who commended the previous week's conference and its robust discussions on the three priority areas (women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence and gender-responsive climate justice) and the four cross-cutting themes (women in leadership and decision-making, crises and disasters, sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) and statistics, and intergenerational dialogue to ensure the perspectives of Pacific youth are heard). The onus now rested on the ministerial meeting to endorse the outcomes and commit to a just and inclusive Blue Pacific.

(Three speakers were asked to reflect on the three priority themes, after which national delegates were invited to share their thoughts).

### The Honourable Isabella Dageago, Minister for Women's and Social Development Affairs, Nauru – Reflections on women's economic empowerment

7. The Minister observed that development cannot be achieved without the economic empowerment of women. In the Pacific, women are currently overrepresented in the informal sector and unpaid work. Women in rural and remote communities face particular challenges. When a woman's earnings increase, she does not necessarily have control over that money and it may increase the risk of violence. It is therefore necessary to be careful in working towards increasing economic empowerment and to also address other impediments to women's freedom. The Minister outlined the key messages for women's economic empowerment from the Triennial Conference discussions, including the value of partnerships; the need for good and culturally appropriate communication; collection of good data; creating enabling environments for the economic empowerment of women; and supporting women to take leadership roles.

### The Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji – Reflections on gender-based violence

8. The Minister noted that GBV is a human rights violation. It exists across all countries and cultures and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the Pacific, GBV has been described as an epidemic and it is affecting development. Estimates indicate that the Pacific has some of the highest rates of GBV in the world – twice the global average. Violence against women is a manifestation of discrimination – that is, men's and boys' power over women and girls – and is perpetuated in gender stereotyping. But this social problem is preventable through a whole-of-society approach where all groups unite to make violence against women unacceptable. Fiji is currently in the process of developing a five-year national action plan addressing violence against women and girls. It is the first Pacific Island country, and the second country in the world alongside Australia, to take a whole-of-government, whole-of-population, inclusive and evidence-based approach to address this issue. 'From crisis comes opportunity – by placing gender equality at the top of the COVID-19 recovery agenda, we can create a better future that is as bright for girls as it is for boys'.





## The Honourable Isaia Vaipuna Taape, Minister for Health, Welfare and Gender Affairs, Tuvalu – Reflections on gender-responsive climate justice

9. The people of Tuvalu are living with climate injustice every day. They have learned that the climate crisis affects women and men differently. For example, because women are more reliant on natural resources, they are more directly affected by the changing and unpredictable climate. When there is a crisis, domestic violence against women increases. Climate change strategies must be inclusive, protecting all, including women and those with disabilities. Women also need to participate in developing these strategies so they can contribute their knowledge and resilience. This highlights the importance of gender mainstreaming. Tuvalu submitted its national United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) gender action plan assessment in 2018 and has promoted the mainstreaming of gender in climate change negotiations at various meetings and negotiations on behalf of the Pacific Islands region. Climate change is an emergency in the Pacific and to achieve justice, gender roles must be transformed. This means financing for gender equality, transforming gender laws, investing in data and accountability, and ensuring women and girls have access to reproductive health services. Tuvalu supported endorsement of the outcomes and recommendations from the Triennial Conference, and suggested the document be used to position Pacific countries and territories within regional and international climate change forums, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and UNFCCC meetings.

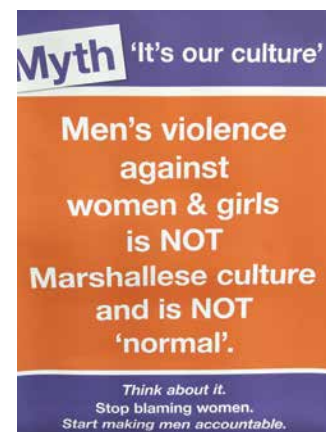


10. **Tonga:** The Honourable Reverend Dr Pōhiva Tuʻíʻonetoa, Prime Minister of Tonga, commended the national delegations on the successful Triennial Conference and noted the call for Pacific leaders to take responsibility for their people’s livelihoods and survival. The Prime Minister said progress has been made across the region in all three of the theme areas and he outlined some of Tonga’s relevant programmes and actions. He reaffirmed the Government of Tonga’s commitment to all regional gender agreements and frameworks and acknowledged the value of partnerships at all levels, noting that sharing good practices through partnerships was a successful strategy. He supported the recommendations of the Triennial Conference and their implementation through action plans linked to development partners’ support.
11. **Solomon Islands:** The outcomes from the Triennial Conference align with the position of the Government of the Solomon Islands. The delegate highlighted the importance of women in leadership, especially in relation to climate change, and said Solomon Islands would like to see women in leadership take higher priority in these discussions. She also stressed the need for a greater focus on women and girls with disabilities and those living in rural and remote areas, saying funding should target these vulnerable groups.
12. **New Caledonia:** New Caledonia approved the recommendations from the Triennial Conference. The delegate stressed that gender equality is a priority issue for New Caledonia and outlined programmes and actions under way in the territory. These include collecting gender data to track gender across policies; a draft charter promoting equality in all areas of life; a draft law on equality in the workplace; and an association that provides social assistance to women. There is also a plan to improve protection from domestic violence, which has increased due to COVID-19.



UN Photo/Alvaro Hoyos

13. **Samoa:** Interventions in Samoa over the last five years, led by the Ministry of Women and Social Development and partners, are advancing women’s economic empowerment. Initiatives include promoting entrepreneurship and job creation for women, young people and people with disabilities; providing training for women in business management and financial literacy; providing grants for women to start up small businesses; a disability partnership programme that supports women and girls with disabilities by providing access to training and employment opportunities; a ‘women in leadership’ programme; and a programme providing training in sewing skills for women, which is supported by China. Samoa acknowledged that there is much more to be done and that it is committed to continuing to promote women’s economic empowerment.
  
14. **FSM:** Climate change threatens FSM’s existence and this threat has been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pacific region needs to unite to address such threats and in doing so must protect the most vulnerable groups – women, children and the elderly. There has been an increase in unpaid care work as a result of the pandemic, with most of this work carried out by women. FSM requested a focus on addressing gender stereotyping, norms and harmful cultural practices as core issues underlying gender discrimination.



15. **RMI:** RMI is committed to advancing and empowering women at all levels so they can live without discrimination and violence. Women are a major force for change. In addressing the triple threat of COVID-19, the economic crash that will inevitably follow, and climate change, women must be at the heart of recovery plans, including being meaningfully involved in their development. There has been progress in gender equality across the region, but it has been uneven. The delegate called on leaders to provide real impetus for advancing women’s rights. She commended Women United Together Marshall Islands and other civil society organisation (CSO) partners in RMI for their commitment to promoting gender equality.

## Agenda item 2: Progressing gender equality in the Pacific

16. This session was moderated by Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen, Director-General of FFA. Dr Tupou-Roosen invited interventions from national delegations on how the Pacific can accelerate progress towards gender equality through addressing GBV, women's economic empowerment and gender-responsive climate justice. She asked what more can we do; what can we do better; and how can we do better. She invited the meeting to also bear in mind that achieving advances for women benefits everyone, and said 'we work best when we work together – this is the Pacific way'.
17. **Cook Islands:** Cook Islands has a long history of promoting gender equality and gender-responsive legislation and policy, from ratifying CEDAW in 1985 to developing a national policy for women in 1995 and approving the fifth reiteration of that policy in 2019. The delegate described programmes and activities supporting gender equality in the Cook Islands under the three theme areas. To advance women's economic empowerment, Cook Islands has a comprehensive social benefits system that provides for maternity leave, a newborn allowance and universal child benefits, and a revolving fund to support women in rural areas and outer islands. The country addresses violence against women through the Family Protection and Support Act 2017, which sets the framework for diverse support services for survivors as well as activities to eradicate violence. In the area of climate change, the Cook Islands is mainstreaming gender in its planning, budgeting and programming to ensure women and disadvantaged groups are included.
18. **FSM:** Issues facing women and girls include the impacts of climate change and the additional threats resulting from COVID-19. However, the pandemic also provides the opportunity 'to build back better' across the region. In a recent change in maternity leave provisions for FSM government employees, the leave period has been extended from six to twelve weeks. The government is committed to expanding these provisions to all four states and the private sector. The delegate summarised activities in FSM under the three theme areas, highlighting what more could be done and how it could be done better. She stressed that interventions to advance women's economic empowerment need to consider the impacts of COVID-19 on women. As examples, FSM has developed a zero-interest loan package targeting women-owned businesses, and a stimulus package that assists low-income families and persons living with a disability.
19. **Solomon Islands:** The delegate highlighted the impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls, who already face multiple barriers to accessing paid work. The pandemic has significantly decreased income-generating opportunities for women, while their unpaid care work has increased. Women need improved access to markets and financial literacy. There is a strong link between increasing women's economic empowerment and violence and this needs to be addressed. Solomon Islands has made significant progress on this issue through initiatives such as the SAFENET referral network for survivors of GBV, which is being rolled out across the provinces. Prevention programmes are also underway. Data is needed to inform interventions, and in Solomon Islands a new national household survey is required to collect up-to-date, relevant data. The delegate noted the impacts of climate change on women, and the importance of including women, who have critical expertise, to contribute to the development of responses. Gender mainstreaming in all interventions is mandatory for all partners and SPC has been called on to facilitate this mainstreaming.



20. **Tonga:** The delegate highlighted Tonga’s commitment to advancing women’s economic empowerment, noting the ‘invisible’ work of women at home and in the workplace, which provides the economic backbone of the country. Tonga is using a framework developed by the UN to help empower women in the informal sector. The Employment Relations Act 2020 provides fundamental rights for women in the workplace, including freedom from discrimination and sexual harassment, and equal remuneration. Tonga completed its second World Trade Organization trade policy review in April 2021 and is pursuing a trade and investment policy that will promote equitable growth, highlighting women’s economic empowerment and the contribution of women to Tonga’s economic life and trade facilitation. Tonga supported the outcomes and recommendations document, with some clarifications and suggestions.
21. **RMI:** RMI noted its significant progress in addressing GBV, acknowledging partners especially the NGO, Women United Together Marshall Islands. Recent activities include a family health and safety study, and the establishment of a support centre for survivors of violence and their families. The delegate acknowledged the Government of Australia for its continued support for addressing GBV through Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development. However, more needs to be done, and she called for better coordination between governments, CSOs and development partners to address the needs and gaps. RMI supported the call to ‘build back better’ after COVID-19 and emphasised the need to include the voices of the most vulnerable in moving the world towards a green recovery.
22. **Samoa:** Samoa reaffirmed its commitment to ending GBV. Efforts in this area include the collection of data on domestic and partner violence for the first time in the 2019 national demographic and health survey; supporting village and faith-based efforts to address family violence; a district development planning programme, which provides opportunities for community leaders, women’s communities, young people and persons with disabilities to discuss the issues and identify their roles in eliminating violence; and participation in the Safe Families, Safe Villages campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence. In January 2021, the government and partners launched an essential service guide and referral pathways for GBV survivors. Other recent activities include a nationwide GBV and alcohol abuse awareness programme across all villages of Samoa; training on GBV in the workplace for government ministries and organisations; and the launch of the family life education programme, which aims to incorporate GBV and sexual and reproductive health in the school curriculum. Samoa endorsed the outcomes and recommendations of the Triennial Conference.
23. **United States of America/USAID:** Samantha Turner spoke on behalf of the USA and USAID. She confirmed USA’s commitment to gender equality for all individuals and its support for Pacific Island leaders in advancing gender equality across the region. She highlighted some of the work supported by USAID in the Pacific under the three themes of the Triennial Conference, including a toolkit for mainstreaming gender in climate financing in Kiribati; a biodiversity activity that supports communities and women-led small businesses in Papua New Guinea; and a REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) project that addresses GBV as it relates to natural resource conflict in Fiji.
24. **Guam:** Guam noted its support for specific grants, stimulus funding and loans for women-led businesses to support their recovery post-COVID-19, given that the pandemic has had more adverse effects for women than for men. Guam currently has a bill in process that will give women-owned businesses an advantage with regards to government contracts: if the pricing for a woman-owned business is no more than five per cent above the lowest price, the bid will be awarded to the woman-owned business. Guam noted that giving women an advantage in this way is internationally accepted by the UN.





25. **Vanuatu:** Vanuatu’s new national gender equality policy will be launched soon. The main areas of the policy align well with the themes and issues of the Triennial Conference. In moving forward, Pacific countries and territories must work both collectively and individually on implementing the recommendations from the conference to advance gender equality. The delegate noted that although many countries include gender in their policies and strategies, implementation is often lacking. This calls for gender mainstreaming, which could be supported with sector-specific guidelines. Many countries also have outdated legislation, for example, on GBV. Partnerships across government, civil society and communities are required to ensure GBV is given the priority it needs, including in responses to COVID-19 and other crises. Vanuatu is increasingly collecting and using sex-disaggregated data.



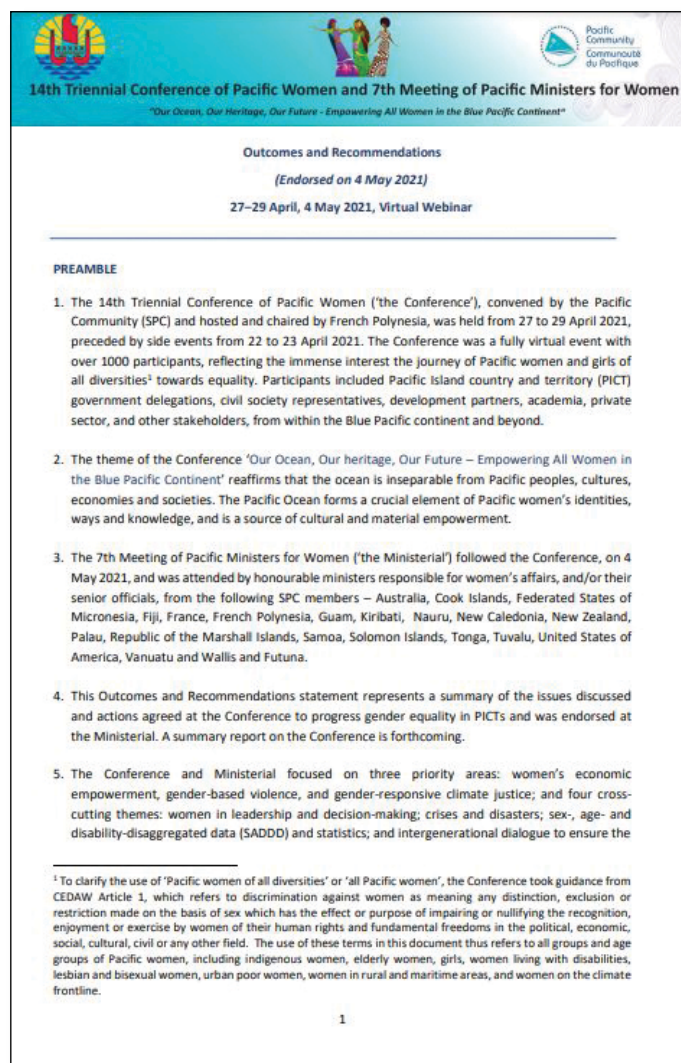
## Agenda item 3: Endorsement of outcomes document

26. This session was moderated by the Chair, who outlined the process followed in developing the outcomes and recommendations document. A small working group prepared a 'zero draft' document that was brought to the Triennial Conference. Further recommendations were suggested during the plenary sessions and side events. The working group, with input from a drafting committee that included representatives from national and regional delegations and civil society, reworked the zero draft, taking into account the additional content.

The draft outcomes and recommendations were then reviewed at the last session of the Triennial Conference. The drafting committee reviewed and included the comments that were provided and the draft document was circulated to countries for their endorsement. The endorsed document was presented at this session. Members of the drafting committee were: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, FSM, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, RMI, Samoa, Tonga, PIFS, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women and We Rise Coalition.

27. The outcomes were therefore the result of wide consultation and input.

28. The Chair invited any final interventions from national delegations on the document with a view to its endorsement. All delegates who had not already endorsed the outcomes and recommendations from the Triennial Conference expressed their support and endorsed the document (Annex 5).



## Closing

### Host and date for the Fifteenth Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and Eighth Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women and Senior Officials

29. RMI offered to host the Fifteenth Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and Eighth Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women. Members were supportive and the Chair accepted the offer and congratulated RMI.



Wallis and Futuna delegation



Christina 'Kiki' Stinnett  
TICC

Luse Tamani  
OCCUL

Margaret Eastgate  
ME Consultancy

Vaine Wichman  
CINCW

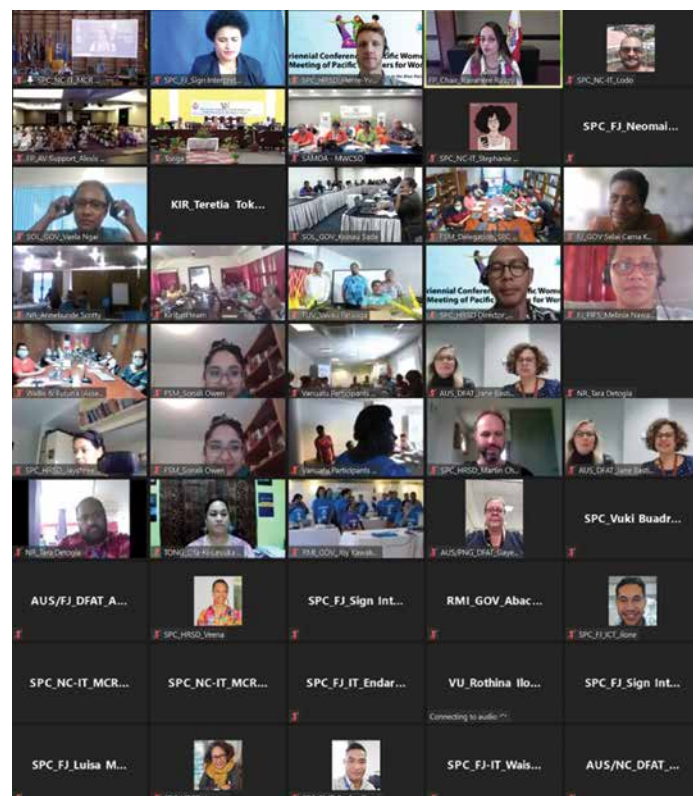


Federated States of Micronesia delegation

Conference participants from around the region

### Closing remarks

30. SPC Director-General, Dr Stuart Minchin, congratulated the governments and delegations for their participation, and their commitment to the outcomes and recommendations document and its implementation over the next three years. Dr Minchin also acknowledged the Government of Australia's contribution of AUD 170 million towards gender equality and women's empowerment in the region over the next few years.
31. The governments present congratulated and thanked the host country, French Polynesia, for a successful event. The countries and territories encouraged each other to work together and to seize the opportunity provided by the COVID-19 pandemic to 'build back better', placing Pacific women and girls at the heart of development efforts in the three thematic areas.
32. The Chair thanked everyone for their active participation, acknowledged SPC for its work and support in organising the virtual events, and closed the meeting.



# ANNEX 1. AGENDAS OF THE FOURTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND SEVENTH MEETING OF MINISTERS

## 14<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women: Programme

(Fiji dates and time)

Thursday, 22 April 2021		
10.30am – 11.30am	<b>Side event</b> Women's full and meaningful participation in climate change related decision-making	<b>Side event</b> Women of the Blue Pacific: Leading response and recovery in times of crisis
11.30am – 12.30pm	<b>Side event</b> From participation to power: Mapping economic pathways to women's empowerment	<b>Side event</b> Rakorako: Building flexible and resilient workplaces in Fiji
Friday, 23 April 2021		
10.30am – 11.30am	<b>Side event</b> Women in ocean governance: Promises and challenges	<b>Side event</b> Market vendor associations: Advancing WEE in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
11.30am – 12.30pm	<b>Side event</b> Queer movement building and co-creating feminist realities in an era of confronting intersectional justice: Transforming a fierce new world	<b>Side event</b> Strengthening our ecosystems to empower Pacific women entrepreneurs and women in business
12.30pm – 1.30pm	<b>Panel and launch</b> Toksava Pacific Gender Resource	
Tuesday, 27 April 2021		
9:00am – 10:15am	<b>Morning tea</b>	
10.15am – 11.30am	<b>Opening</b> Traditional welcome, prayer and blessing Dr Stuart Minchin, Director-General, Pacific Community His Excellency, Édouard Fritch, President, French Polynesia Honourable Isabelle Sachet, Minister for Family, Social Affairs and Women, French Polynesia Flora Aurima Devatine, Writer and Poet, French Polynesia Launch of BEIJING+25: Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories	
11.30am – 12.10pm	<b>High-level ministerial session</b> Honourable Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Australia Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji Honourable Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau Senior, Vice President and Minister of State, Palau Honourable Reverend Dr Pōhiva Tu'í'onetoa, Prime Minister of Tonga	
12.10pm – 12.30pm	<b>Meeting arrangements</b>	
12.30pm – 1.00pm	<b>Wellness/Lunch break</b>	
1.00pm – 3.30pm	<b>Plenary – Women's economic empowerment</b> <i>Moderator:</i> Mareva Lechat-Kitalong, Adviser and Legal Counsel, Office of the President, French Polynesia	



	<p><i>Speakers:</i>  Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen, Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  Evonne Kennedy, Executive Director, Business Coalition for Women, Papua New Guinea  Heiura Itae-Tetaa, Founder, Speak Tahiti, French Polynesia  Adi Maimalaga Tafunai, Executive Director, Women in Business Development Inc., Samoa  Una Valenitabua, Program Manager, Australian Volunteers Program  Discussions, recommendations, outcomes</p>	
3.30pm – 4.00pm	<b>Wellness/Afternoon tea break</b>	
4.00pm – 5.00pm	<p><b>Side event</b>  Time to care: Women's and girls' unpaid care and domestic work in the Pacific</p>	<p><b>Side event</b>  Women of the land and sea</p>
5.00pm – 5.30pm	<b>Drafting committee</b>	
<b>Wednesday, 28 April 2021</b>		
9:00am – 10:30am	<b>Morning tea</b>	
10.30am – 11.30am	<p><b>Side event</b>  Pacific Women in 2030: Envisioning an inclusive and equitable Pacific workforce</p>	<p><b>Side event</b>  Ratification of ILO Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 and advancing gender equality in world of work</p>
11.30am – 12.00pm	<b>Wellness/Lunch break</b>	
12.00pm – 2.30pm	<p><b>Plenary – Gender-based violence</b>  <i>Moderator:</i>  Ofakilevuka Guttenbeil Likiliki, Director, Women and Children Crisis Centre, Tonga  <i>Speakers:</i>  Christina Stinnett, President, Chuuk Women's Council, Federated States of Micronesia  Teretia Tokam, Coordinator, Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre, Kiribati  Vaela Devesi, Director, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Solomon Islands  Reverend James Bhagwan, Secretary General, Pacific Conference of Churches  Discussions, recommendations, outcomes</p>	
2.30pm – 3.00pm	<b>Wellness/Afternoon tea break</b>	
3.00pm – 4.00pm	<p><b>Side event</b>  Curves and violence: Measuring the gender-based violence curve to flatten it</p>	<p><b>Side event</b>  Revitalising our Pacific womb</p>
4.00pm – 5.00pm	<p><b>Side event</b>  Solutions to end violence against women and girls where we play, pray and engage</p>	<p><b>Side event</b>  Intergenerational discussion: Pacific women in all their diversity working together for a just, sustainable future</p>
5.00pm – 5.30pm	<b>Drafting committee</b>	

# 14<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women: Programme

(Fiji dates and time)

Thursday, 29 April 2021			
9:00am – 10:30am	<b>Morning tea</b>		
10.30am – 11.30am	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Side event</b> Counting women: Using disaggregated data to build a resilient and inclusive Blue Pacific</td> <td><b>Side event</b> Shifting the power and mobilising diverse women's leadership in response to COVID-19 and climate change</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Side event</b> Counting women: Using disaggregated data to build a resilient and inclusive Blue Pacific	<b>Side event</b> Shifting the power and mobilising diverse women's leadership in response to COVID-19 and climate change
<b>Side event</b> Counting women: Using disaggregated data to build a resilient and inclusive Blue Pacific	<b>Side event</b> Shifting the power and mobilising diverse women's leadership in response to COVID-19 and climate change		
11.30am – 12.00pm	<b>Wellness/Lunch break</b>		
12.00pm – 2.30pm	<p><b>Plenary – Gender-responsive climate justice</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Noelene Nabulivou, Feminist Grassroots Organizer, Activist and Advocate, Fiji</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Kristina Stege, Climate Envoy, Republic of the Marshall Islands Flora Vano, Country Programme Manager, ActionAid, Vanuatu Eleala Avaniatele, Communication Manager, Tuvalu Red Cross Society, Tuvalu</p> <p>Discussions, recommendations, outcomes</p>		
2.30pm – 3.00pm	<b>Wellness/Afternoon tea break</b>		
3.00pm – 5.00pm	<b>Agreed recommendations from Triennial Conference</b>		
5.00pm – 5.30pm	<b>Closing</b>		

# 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women and Senior Government Officials

Tuesday 4th May 2021

10:30am – 11:00am	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>Dr Stuart Minchin, Director-General – Remarks from the Pacific Community</p> <p>Honourable Isabelle Sachet, Minister for Family, Social Affairs and Women, French Polynesia – Remarks from the Chair</p> <p>Adoption of the agenda</p> <p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>Housekeeping</p>
11:00am – 12:15pm	<p><b>Agenda Item 1: Reflections on the Triennial priority areas</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p>Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Honourable Isabella Dageago, Minister for Disabilities, Health, Internal Affairs and Women and Social Development Affairs</p> <p>– Reflections on women’s economic empowerment</p> <p>Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji</p> <p>– Reflections on gender-based violence</p> <p>Honourable Isaia Vaipuna Taape, Minister for Health, Welfare and Gender Affairs, Tuvalu</p> <p>– Reflections on gender-responsive climate justice</p> <p>Reflections from national delegations on Triennial priority areas and cross-cutting themes</p>
12:15pm – 1:00pm	<p><b>Wellness break</b></p>
1:00pm – 2:15pm	<p><b>Agenda Item 2: Progressing gender equality in the Pacific</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p>Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen, Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency</p> <p>Interventions from national delegations on how the Pacific can accelerate progress towards gender equality through addressing gender-based violence, women’s economic empowerment and gender responsive climate justice – what more can we do; what can we do better; how can we do better?</p>
2:00pm – 3:15pm	<p><b>Agenda Item 3: Endorsement of outcomes document</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p>Honourable Minister Isabelle Sachet</p> <p>Interventions from national delegations on the outcomes document with a view to its endorsement</p>
3:15pm – 4:00pm	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <p>Host and date for 15th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 8th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women and Senior Officials</p> <p>Remarks from the Pacific Community: Dr Stuart Minchin, Director-General</p> <p>Remarks from the Chair: Honourable Isabelle Sachet, Minister for Family, Social Affairs and Women, French Polynesia</p>

(Fiji time)

## ANNEX 2. PARTICIPANT NUMBERS OF THE FOURTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND SEVENTH MEETING OF MINISTERS

Day	Side event/session	Total
22 Apr	1. Women's full and meaningful participation in climate change related decision-making (OHCHR)	96
22 Apr	2. Women of the Blue Pacific: Leading response and recovery in times of crisis (FWRM)	103
22 Apr	3. From participation to power: Mapping economic pathways to women's empowerment (snake and ladder) (Pacific Women, Vanuatu Skills Partnership, CARE PNG)	127
22 Apr	4. Rakorako: Building flexible and resilient workplaces in Fiji (IFC, FHRI, Rakorako, DFAT and MFAT)	65
23 Apr	5. Women in ocean governance: Promises and challenges	121
23 Apr	6. Market vendor associations: Advancing WEE in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (UN Women)	80
23 Apr	7. Queer movement building and co-creating feminist realities in an era of confronting intersectional justice: Transforming a fierce new world (HoK, Rainbow Pride, ILGA, PSGDN et al.)	89
23 Apr	8. Strengthening our ecosystems to empower Pacific Women entrepreneurs and women in business (PIFS/ADB/CIPE and others)	140
23 Apr	9. Panel and launch: Toksave Pacific Gender Resource – Join the Community (University of Auckland, University of the South Pacific, National University of Samoa, University of PNG, SPC, Australian National University)	147
27 April	Opening session	127
27 April	Plenary – Women's economic empowerment	n/a

Day	Side event/session	Total
27 April	1. Time to care: Women's and girls' unpaid care and domestic work in the Pacific (OXFAM) (Shifting Power Shifting Voices)	102
27 April	2. Women of the land and sea (SPC)	73
28 April	3. Pacific Women in 2030: Envisioning an inclusive and equitable Pacific workforce (APTC/SPC)	129
28 April	4. Ratification of ILO Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 and advancing gender equality in world of work (UNW, ILO, FWRM)	84
28 April	Plenary – Gender-based violence	134
28 April	5. Curves and violence: Measuring the gender-based violence curve to flatten it (SPC, UNFPA, UniMelbourne)	118
28 April	6. Revitalising our Pacific womb (PCC)	61
28 April	7. Solutions to end violence against women and girls where we play, pray and engage (PPEVAW, UNW, House of Sarah. Oceania Rugby) (combined side event)	108
28 April	8. Intergenerational discussion: Pacific women in all their diversity working together for a just, sustainable future (DIVA)	113
29 April	9. Counting women: Using disaggregated data to build a resilient and inclusive Blue Pacific. (UNDRR/WINDRR/SPC/DFAT)	82
29 April	10. Shifting the power and mobilising diverse women's leadership in response to COVID-19 and climate change	84
29 April	Plenary – Climate justice	104
29 April	Agreed recommendations from the Triennial	96
29 April	Closing session	n/a
4 May	7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women	102

# ANNEX 3. NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING





## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



Australia



### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Hon. Marise Payne**  
Australia's Foreign Minister and Minister for Women
- ▶ **Julie-Ann Guivarra**  
Australia's Ambassador for Gender Equality,
- ▶ **Lucy Rhydwen-Marett**  
Executive Officer to the Ambassador for Gender Equality, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ **Jane Bastin- Sikimeti**  
Director Pacific Gender Section, Office of the Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ **Geraldine Tyson**  
Assistant Director Pacific Gender Section, Office of the Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ **Annemarie Reerink**  
Director- Gender Strategy Effectiveness and Performance Unit, Gender Equality Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Julie-Ann Guivarra**  
Australia's Ambassador for Gender Equality,
- ▶ **Lucy Rhydwen-Marett**  
Executive Officer to the Ambassador for Gender Equality, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ **Jane Bastin- Sikimeti**  
Director Pacific Gender Section, Office of the Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ **Geraldine Tyson**  
Assistant Director Pacific Gender Section, Office of the Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ **Annemarie Reerink**  
Director- Gender Strategy Effectiveness and Performance Unit, Gender Equality Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



**Hon. Marise Payne**  
Australia's Foreign Minister and Minister for Women, *Head of Delegation*



**Julie-Ann Guivarra**  
Australia's Ambassador for Gender Equality



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



Australia



### Triennial Conference

#### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PACIFIC MISSIONS

- Fiji - Australian High Commission - Suva**
  - ▶ **Angelyn Amos**
  - ▶ **Phil Manove**
- New Caledonia – Australian Consulate - Noumea**
  - ▶ **Ishara Davey**  
Consul
  - ▶ **Rebecca Pope**  
Policy Officer
- French Polynesia - Australian Consulate - Papeete**
  - ▶ **HOP designate Papeete (joining from quarantine)**
- Federated States of Micronesia - Australian Embassy - Pohnpei**
  - ▶ **Dion Bernard Asher:**  
Senior Project Manager
- Papua New Guinea - Australian High Commission - Port Moresby**
  - ▶ **Gaye Moore**  
First Secretary, Program Strategy and Gender Section

### Ministers For Women Meeting

#### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PACIFIC MISSIONS

- Fiji - Australian High Commission - Suva**
  - ▶ **Angelyn Amos**
  - ▶ **Phil Manove**
- New Caledonia – Australian Consulate - Noumea**
  - ▶ **Ishara Davey**  
Consul
  - ▶ **Rebecca Pope**  
Policy Officer
- French Polynesia - Australian Consulate - Papeete**
  - ▶ **HOP designate Papeete (joining from quarantine)**
- Federated States of Micronesia - Australian Embassy - Pohnpei**
  - ▶ **Dion Bernard Asher:**  
Senior Project Manager
- Papua New Guinea - Australian High Commission - Port Moresby**
  - ▶ **Gaye Moore**  
First Secretary, Program Strategy and Gender Section



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Cook Islands



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ Hon. Vaine Mac Mokoroa  
Minister for Ministry of Internal Affairs and Head of Delegation
- ▶ Anne Herman  
Secretary Ministry of Internal Affairs
- ▶ Angeline Tuara  
Director Social Policy Services
- ▶ Rebecca Hosking Ellis  
Manager Social Policy
- ▶ Claudine Henry Anguna  
Manager Policy and Business Development & Cooperative Services
- ▶ Pauline Rangl  
National Coordinator for Disability/Social Policy
- ▶ Mata Tangata  
National Coordinator for Children/Social Policy
- ▶ Emile Rima  
Technical Assistant/Corporate Services
- ▶ Tupopongi Marsters  
National Coordinator Gender/Social Policy
- ▶ Antonina Browne  
Senior Foreign Service Officer-Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
- ▶ Ngakiri Teaea  
Foreign Service Officer-Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ Hon. Vaine Mac Mokoroa  
Minister for Ministry of Internal Affairs and Head of Delegation
- ▶ Anne Herman  
Secretary Ministry of Internal Affairs
- ▶ Angeline Tuara  
Director Social Policy Services, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- ▶ Rebecca Hosking Ellis  
Manager Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- ▶ Claudine Henry Anguna  
Manager Policy and Business Development & Cooperative Services, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- ▶ Tupopongi Marsters  
National Coordinator Gender/Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- ▶ Ngakiri Teaea  
Foreign Service Officer-Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration.
- ▶ Dorothy Solomona  
Policy and Planning Manager, Office of the Public Service Commissioner



Hon. Vaine Mac Mokoroa  
Minister for Ministry of Internal Affairs -  
Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Federated States of Micronesia



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ Stuard Penias  
Acting Chief of Social Affairs, Department of Health & Social Affairs, Head of Delegation
- ▶ Stacy Yleizah:  
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs
- ▶ Augustine Sue  
Data Specialist, Department of Health & Social Affairs
- ▶ Johnny Hadley Jr.  
Child Protection Coordinator, Department of Health & Social Affairs
- ▶ Lucille Apis Overhoff  
Assistant Secretary, Climate Change Division, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management
- ▶ Cynthia Salmon  
Early Childhood Specialist, Department of Education
- ▶ Leonito Bacalando Jr.  
Assistant Attorney General/ Chief of Law, Department of Justice
- ▶ Sonali Owen  
Family Protection Advisor, Department of Health & Social Affairs/ Pacific Women
- ▶ Tupou Vere:  
Social Development Program Officer (gender, youth, culture), SPC MRO
- ▶ George Isom  
Country Focal Officer - FSM, SPC Micronesia Regional Office (MRO)
- ▶ Lomalida Jibemal  
Statistics Specialist IV & SDG Chairwoman, Department of Resources and Development
- ▶ Edna Akullq  
FSM SDG Localisation Coordinator, Department of Resources and Development

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ Hon. Marcus Samo  
Acting Secretary of Health and Social Affairs, Department of Health & Social Affairs, Head of Delegation
- ▶ Stuard Penias  
Acting Chief of Social Affairs, Department of Health & Social Affairs
- ▶ Stacy Yleizah  
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs
- ▶ Lucille Apis Overhoff  
Assistant Secretary, Climate Change Division, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management
- ▶ Christina Stinnett  
President, Chuuk Women's Council, FSM National Women's Council
- ▶ Emilliana Musrasrik-Carl  
President, Pohnpei Women's Council
- ▶ Augustine Sue  
Data Specialist, Department of Health & Social Affairs
- ▶ Johnny Hadley Jr.  
Child Protection Coordinator, Department of Health & Social Affairs
- ▶ George Isom  
Country Focal Officer - FSM, SPC Micronesia Regional Office (MRO)
- ▶ Tupou Vere  
Social Development Program Officer (gender, youth, culture), SPC MRO



Hon. Marcus Samo  
Acting Secretary of Health and Social Affairs,  
Head of Delegation, Ministers Meeting



Stuard Penias  
Acting Chief of Social Affairs, Department of Health & Social Affairs - Head of Delegation,  
Triennial Conference





## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



Fiji



### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Hon. Mereseini Rakuita Vuniwaqa**  
Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
- ▶ **Ms Jennifer Poole**  
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
- ▶ **Ms Mehrak Mehrvar**  
Fiji National Gender Advisor
- ▶ **Selal Cama Korovusere**  
Director Women Fiji

### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Hon. Mereseini Rakuita Vuniwaqa**  
Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
- ▶ **Ms Jennifer Poole**  
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
- ▶ **Ms Mehrak Mehrvar**  
Fiji National Gender Advisor
- ▶ **Selal Cama Korovusere**  
Director Women Fiji



**Hon. Mereseini Rakuita Vuniwaqa**  
Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation,  
*Head of Delegation*



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



France



### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Luc ASSELIN de WILLIENCOURT**  
Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the Pacific Community and to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Luc ASSELIN de WILLIENCOURT**  
Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the Pacific Community and to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### French Polynesia



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Isabelle Sachet**  
Minister, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA), Head of delegation
- ▶ **Ravahere Rauzy**  
Technical advisor, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA)
- ▶ **Patricia Grillot**  
Policy Officer, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA)
- ▶ **Gaëlle Bouzard**  
Head of Cabinet, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA)
- ▶ **Stéphanie Pater**,  
Cabinet Director, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA)
- ▶ **Tuereni Tehetia**  
agent, Department of Solidarity, Family and Equality (DFSE)
- ▶ **Valérie Hong-kiou**  
Director, Department of Solidarity, Family and Equality (DFSE)
- ▶ **Mareva Lechat-Kitalong**  
Presidency of French Polynesia

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Isabelle Sachet**  
Minister, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA), Head of delegation
- ▶ **Ravahere Rauzy**  
Technical advisor, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA)
- ▶ **Patricia Grillot**  
Policy Officer, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA)
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Head of Cabinet, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA)
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Cabinet Director, Ministry for the Family, Social Affairs and the Status of Women, in charge of the fight against exclusion (MFA)
- ▶ **Tuereni Tehetia**  
Agent, Department of Solidarity, Family and Equality (DFSE)
- ▶ **Valérie Hong-kiou**  
Director, Department of Solidarity, Family and Equality (DFSE)
- ▶ **Mareva Lechat-Kitalong**  
Presidency of French Polynesia



**Hon. Isabelle Sachet**  
Minister of Family, Social Affairs and Feminine Condition,  
Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Guam



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Jayne Therese Flores**  
Director of the Bureau of Women's Affairs (representing the Governor)

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Jayne Therese Flores**  
Director of the Bureau of Women's Affairs (representing the Governor)



**Jayne Therese Flores**  
Director of the Bureau of Women's Affairs - Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Kiribati



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Daisy Korina**  
Deputy Secretary, Ministry for Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs, Head of Delegation
- ▶ **Henty Grace Pine**  
Human Rights Officer, Ministry of Justice
- ▶ **Anne Kautu**  
Principal Women Development Officer, Ministry for Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Hon. Martin Moreti**  
Minister for Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs, Head of Delegation
- ▶ **Daisy Korina**  
Deputy Secretary, Ministry for Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs
- ▶ **Anne Kautu**  
Principal Women Development Officer, Ministry for Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs



**Daisy Korina**  
Deputy Secretary, Ministry for Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs - Head of Delegation, Triennial Conference



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Nauru



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Hon. Isabella Dageaego**  
Minister for Disabilities, Health, Internal Affairs and Women's and Social Development Affairs - Head of Delegation
- ▶ **Joy Heine**  
Secretary Womens and Social Development Affairs
- ▶ **Marjorie Karl**  
Safehouse Counselor, Women's Affairs Department
- ▶ **Tara Detogia**  
Director Gender Mainstreaming Unit
- ▶ **Annebunde Scotty**  
Director Child Protection Division
- ▶ **Livai Sovau**  
Senior Government Lawyer/Adviser, Women's and Social Development Affairs

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Hon. Isabella Dageaego**  
Minister for Disabilities, Health, Internal Affairs and Women's and Social Development Affairs - Head of Delegation
- ▶ **Marjorie Karl**  
Safehouse Counselor, Women's Affairs Department
- ▶ **Livai Sovau**  
Senior Government Lawyer/Adviser, Women's and Social Development Affairs



**Hon. Isabella Dageaego**  
Minister for Disabilities, Health, Internal Affairs and Women's and Social Development Affairs - Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### New Caledonia



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Valentine Eurisouke**  
Ministry, Coordination and implementation of the Do Kamo plan (health) and civic service; women condition sector, Head of Delegation
- ▶ **Rolande Trolue**  
Officer in charge of the status of women
- ▶ **Claude Gambey**  
Chief of cabinet of Min. Eurisouke
- ▶ **Jimmy Naouna**  
Officer in charge of the multilateral cooperation
- ▶ **Henriette Uregei**  
Officer in charge of the bilateral cooperation

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Valentine Eurisouke**  
Ministry, Coordination and implementation of the Do Kamo plan (health) and civic service; women condition sector, Head of Delegation
- ▶ **Rolande Trolue**  
Officer in charge of the status of women
- ▶ **Claude Gambey**  
Chief of cabinet of Min. Eurisouke
- ▶ **Jimmy Naouna**  
Officer in charge of the multilateral cooperation
- ▶ **Henriette Uregei**  
Officer in charge of the bilateral cooperation



**Valentine Eurisouke**  
Ministry, Coordination and implementation of the Do Kamo plan (health) and civic service; women condition sector -  
*Head of Delegation*



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### New Zealand



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Rebecca Barnes**  
Policy Director, Ministry for Women
- ▶ **Tara Singh**  
Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ **Georgia Grice**  
Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Renee Graham**  
Secretary for Women and Chief Executive, Ministry of Women, Head of Delegation



**Renee Graham**  
Secretary for Women and Chief Executive,  
Ministry of Women - *Head of Delegation*



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Palau



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau  
Vice President and Minister of State
- ▶ Laydee Melanch Ngirmeriil  
SIS Officer, Palau
- ▶ Eunice Akiwo  
Director, Domestic Affairs, Ministry of State.
- ▶ Tkaki Mekreos  
Gender Officer, Palau

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau  
Vice President and Minister of State
- ▶ Laydee Melanch Ngirmeriil  
SIS Officer, Palau
- ▶ Eunice Akiwo  
Director, Domestic Affairs, Ministry of State.
- ▶ Tkaki Mekreos  
Gender Officer, Palau



**Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau**  
Vice President and Minister of State,  
Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Republic of the Marshall Islands



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ Hon. Jemi Nashion  
Minister of Culture and Internal Affairs, Head of delegation
- ▶ Hon. Kitlang Kabua  
Minister for Education, Sports, and Training (Alternate Head of Delegation)
- ▶ Kino Kabua  
Chief Secretary
- ▶ Anjanette Kattil  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ Wallace Peter  
Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
- ▶ His Excellency Tregar Ishoda  
Ambassador – RMI Embassy Fiji
- ▶ Rebecca Lorennij  
Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
- ▶ Teri Elbon  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ Molly Helkena  
Office of the Chief Secretary
- ▶ Rina Keju  
Deputy Chief of Mission – RMI Embassy Fiji
- ▶ Joy Kawakami  
Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
- ▶ Jane Ishiguru  
Climate Change Directorate
- ▶ Kathryn Relang  
HRSD CFO
- ▶ Abacca Anjain Maddison, Deputy Chief Secretary, Office of Chief Secretary

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ Hon. Kitlang Kabua  
Minister for Education, Sports, and Training, Head of Delegation
- ▶ Kino Kabua  
Chief Secretary
- ▶ Anjanette Kattil  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ Wallace Peter  
Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
- ▶ His Excellency Tregar Ishoda  
Ambassador – RMI Embassy Fiji
- ▶ Rebecca Lorennij  
Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
- ▶ Teri Elbon  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ▶ Molly Helkena  
Office of the Chief Secretary
- ▶ Rina Keju  
Deputy Chief of Mission – RMI Embassy Fiji
- ▶ Joy Kawakami  
Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
- ▶ Jane Ishiguru  
Climate Change Directorate
- ▶ Kathryn Relang  
HRSD CFO
- ▶ Abacca Anjain Maddison, Deputy Chief Secretary, Office of Chief Secretary



**Hon. Kitlang Kabua**  
Minister for Education, Sports, and Training - Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



Pacific Community  
Communauté du Pacifique

### Samoa



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ Afamasaga Faauga Mulitalo  
Chief Executive Officer, MWCSO (Head of Delegation)
- ▶ Peseta Noumea Simi  
Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)
- ▶ Fitiao Susan Faoagali  
ACEO, Research & Policy Division MWCSO
- ▶ Desna Solofa  
ACEO, Regional Relations MFAT
- ▶ Sauoaiqa Olive Kaio  
ACEO, Social Development Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Latu Afioga  
ACEO, Governance Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Misa Siauituvao Talataina  
ACEO, Economic Development Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Soifualupa Wulf  
Research & Policy Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Juliana Lafaialii  
Regional Relations Division, MFAT

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ Afamasaga Faauga Mulitalo  
Chief Executive Officer, MWCSO (Head of Delegation)
- ▶ Fitiao Susan Faoagali  
ACEO, Research & Policy Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Sauoaiqa Olive Kaio  
ACEO, Social Development Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Latu Afioga  
ACEO, Governance Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Misa Siauituvao Talataina  
ACEO, Economic Development Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Soifualupa Wulf  
Research & Policy Division, MWCSO
- ▶ Juliana Lafaialii  
Regional Relations Division, MFAT



Ms Afamasaga Faauga Mulitalo  
Chief Executive Officer, MWCSO,  
Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



Pacific Community  
Communauté du Pacifique

### Solomon Islands



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ Cedric Alependava  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
- ▶ Vaela Ngai  
Director for Women's Development Division MWYCFCA
- ▶ Koisau Sade  
EVAWG Policy Coordinator MWYCFCA

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ Minister Freda Rotutafi Rangirei  
Minister of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Head of delegation
- ▶ Cedric Alependava  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
- ▶ Vaela Ngai  
Director for Women's Development Division MWYCFCA
- ▶ Koisau Sade  
EVAWG Policy Coordinator MWYCFCA



Minister Freda Rotutafi Rangirei  
Minister of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs,  
Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



Tonga



### Triennial Conference

- ▶ Hon. Rev Dr Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa  
Prime Minister of Tonga,  
Head of Delegation
- ▶ Dr Fotu K. V. Fisi'iahi  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
(Leader)
- ▶ Edgar Cocker  
Prime Minister's Office Rep  
Chief Secretary & Sec. to  
Cabinet
- ▶ Manakovi Pahulu  
Ministry of Justice CEO
- ▶ Dr Tangikina Skeen  
Ministry of Education and  
Training CEO
- ▶ Dr Tu'ikolongahau Halafihī:  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Food (MAFFF)  
Forestry and Food CEO
- ▶ Mana'ia Halafihī  
Acting CEO Agriculture
- ▶ Paula Povalu Ma'u  
Ministry of Meteorology  
Energy, Information, Disaster  
Management, Environment,  
Climate Change and  
Communication (MEIDECCC)  
CEO
- ▶ Dr Viliami Fifita  
Statistics Department CEO
- ▶ Distaquaine Pele-  
Tu'ihalamaka  
Ministry of Trade & Economic  
Development CEO
- ▶ Keasi Taka  
Civil Society Forum Tonga
- ▶ Polotu Fakafanua – Paunga  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Deputy CEO WAGED

### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ Hon. Rev Dr Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa  
Prime Minister of Tonga,  
Head of Delegation
- ▶ Hon. Hu'akavameilikū  
Minister of Education and  
Training
- ▶ Hon. Dr Amelia  
Afuha'amango Tu'ipulotu  
Minister for Health, Associate  
Professor
- ▶ Dr Fotu K. V. Fisi'iahi  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
(Leader)
- ▶ Edgar Cocker  
Prime Minister's Office Rep  
Chief Secretary & Sec. to  
Cabinet
- ▶ Manakovi Pahulu  
Ministry of Justice CEO
- ▶ Dr Tangikina Skeen  
Ministry of Education and  
Training CEO
- ▶ Dr Tu'ikolongahau Halafihī:  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Food (MAFFF)  
Forestry and Food CEO
- ▶ Mana'ia Halafihī  
Acting CEO Agriculture
- ▶ Distaquaine Pele-  
Tu'ihalamaka  
Ministry of Trade & Economic  
Development CEO
- ▶ Polotu Fakafanua – Paunga  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Deputy CEO WAGED



Hon. Rev Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa  
Prime Minister of Tonga,  
Head of Delegation



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



Tuvalu



### Triennial Conference

- ▶ Mr. Nikolasi Apinelu  
Chief Executive Officer
- ▶ Mr. Vavau Fatuuga  
Assistant Secretary
- ▶ Mr. Sokotia Kulene  
Acting Director, Gender Affairs Department

### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ Hon. Isaia Vaipuna Taape  
Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Gender  
Affairs, Head of Delegation
- ▶ Mr. Nikolasi Apinelu  
Chief Executive Officer
- ▶ Mr. Vavau Fatuuga  
Assistant Secretary
- ▶ Mr. Sokotia Kulene  
Acting Director, Gender Affairs Department



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Vanuatu



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Rothina Ilo Noka**  
Director Department of Women's Affairs
- ▶ **Seman Dalesa Saraken**  
Governance officer (DWA)
- ▶ **Celine Bareus**  
Gender officer (DWA)

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Johnny Marango**  
Acting Director General
- ▶ **Rothina Ilo Noka**  
Director Department of Women's Affairs



**Hon. Minister Esmon Salmon**  
MICS, Head of Delegation for Ministers Meeting



**Rothina Ilo Noka**  
Director Department of Women's Affairs - Head of Delegation, Triennial Conference



## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Wallis and Futuna



#### Triennial Conference

- ▶ **Nivaleta Iloai**  
President of Territorial Assembly
- ▶ **Mireille Laufflitoga**  
President of Permanent Commission and Commission of Regional Integration
- ▶ **MMatilite Tali**  
Representative of Woman Delegate
- ▶ **Representative of Superior Administration (SCOPPD)**
- ▶ **Olga Gaveau**  
Legal Counsel / Advisor (Territorial Assembly)
- ▶ **Aymérick Kolokilagi**  
Regional Cooperation Advisor (Territorial Assembly)

#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Nivaleta Iloai**  
President of Territorial Assembly
- ▶ **Mireille Laufflitoga**  
President of Permanent Commission and Commission of Regional Integration
- ▶ **MMatilite Tali**  
Representative of Woman Delegate
- ▶ **Representative of Superior Administration (SCOPPD)**
- ▶ **Olga Gaveau**  
Legal Counsel / Advisor (Territorial Assembly)
- ▶ **Aymérick Kolokilagi**  
Regional Cooperation Advisor (Territorial Assembly)



**Nivaleta Iloai**  
President of the Territorial Assembly of Wallis and Futuna





## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### United States of America



#### Ministers For Women Meeting

- ▶ **Katrina Fotovat**  
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- ▶ **Maheisha Adams**  
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- ▶ **Ryan Berney**  
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- ▶ **Catherine Bollinger**  
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- ▶ **Sean Callahan**  
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## NATIONAL DELEGATIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND MINISTERS FOR WOMEN MEETING



### Observers

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- ▶ **Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen**  
Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
- ▶ **Dame Meg Taylor**  
Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum
- ▶ **Sanaka Kumara Samarasinha**  
Resident Coordinator, United Nations
- ▶ **Sandra Bernkiau**  
Representative, UN Women Fiji Multi Country Office
- ▶ **Jennifer Butler**  
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- ▶ **Mary Therese Perez Hattori**  
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- ▶ **Isikeli Vulavou**  
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- ▶ **Nalini Singh**  
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- ▶ **Sharon Bhagwan Rolls**  
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- ▶ **Ronay Dick**  
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- ▶ **Anne Moorhead**  
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- ▶ **Ana Laqeretabua**  
Consultant - Triennial Rapporteur

# ANNEX 4. THEMATIC BRIEFS ON THE THREE PRIORITY AREAS

## Gender-based violence - BRIEF

This brief serves to highlight some of the key gender equality issues relating to gender-based violence (GBV). The brief summarises content in the recently published 'Beijing +25' Pacific region review report<sup>1</sup> and provides a review of progress against key GBV recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women. It also draws on recent regional reports on GBV, its impacts and strategies being used to tackle this problem.



1 Pacific Community (SPC), 2021. *Beijing +25: Review of the progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories report*. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3AUsBMG>

2 CEDAW Committee, 2017. *General Recommendation 35: Gender Based Violence against Women*. Available at: <https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fTreaties%2fCEDAW%2fShared%20Documents%2f1%5fGlobal&FolderCTID=0x012000DD93400896704142AD4D9FB3367C6D08>

3 Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), 2014. *Toolkit on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls with Disability in Fiji*.

Available at: <https://bit.ly/3DRMcyX>

4 Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2018. *First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report*. Available at: [https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2018-1st-Quadrennial-Pacific-Sustainable-Development-Report\\_final-as-of-July-4-2019.pdf](https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2018-1st-Quadrennial-Pacific-Sustainable-Development-Report_final-as-of-July-4-2019.pdf)

### 1. Summary of the issue

GBV, targeting primarily women and girls, is experienced in multiple ways - verbal, physical, emotional or psychological, and/or sexual - and is often underpinned by economic control over women. It is not unusual for these different forms of violence to occur together in an unequal intimate partner relationship. Non-partner GBV against women and girls is also prevalent within the supposed sanctuary of the family, in communities and in public spaces. Sexual harassment, cyber violence and online stalking are other forms of GBV experienced by women. As the CEDAW Committee explains, "GBV is one of the fundamental social, political and economic means by which the subordinate position of women with respect to men and their stereotyped roles are perpetuated".<sup>2</sup> The key underlying cause of GBV is gender inequality and unequal power relations between men and women, perpetuated by social norms related to the gendered roles of men and women. Violence against women and girls who are particularly vulnerable, including women and girls with disabilities and LGBTI face additional problems in accessing appropriate support and have fewer options to escape the violence.<sup>3</sup>

GBV against women and girls in the Pacific is considerably more prevalent than the global average of 35 percent. In the region high numbers of Pacific women experience sexual violence by their intimate partner. These include 63% in Melanesia, 44% in Micronesia and 43% of women in Polynesia.<sup>4</sup> Despite variation between countries, there are high levels of GBV in all Pacific countries. Violence against women, including the threat of violence, is an abuse of women's human rights. It limits women's participation in social, political and economic life. This significantly impacts on development outcomes, affecting families and communities and placing significant strains on health care, social services, policing and judicial systems.

Effective prevention of and response to GBV requires developing the knowledge and capacity of health, education, law enforcement and social service providers to provide a full range of integrated support. This includes medical services; counselling; shelter and accommodation; workplace and income support; police and court services; legal services; and specialised services for marginalised and vulnerable groups. Service providers also require support for effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation of their response and prevention interventions.

## 2. Strategic alignment to regional and international commitments

Numerous commitments to gender equality and addressing gender-based violence have been made at the national, regional and global level. Commitments include the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2017); the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2012); the Beijing Platform for Action (1995); the outcome statement at the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and Senior Officials Conference on Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2020) ; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); recommendations made at the Commission on the Status of Women Conferences and at the Triennial Conferences of Pacific Women (2013, 2017); the Communiqués of the Ministers for Women meetings (2013, 2017); the Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review process.

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) also have made national commitments, notably through the ratification of human rights conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), national laws criminalising GBV including domestic or family violence, and policies on gender equality and ending violence against women.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers for Women (2017) identified key issues and broad areas requiring action to end GBV.<sup>5</sup> Examples and evidence of progress made regarding specific outcomes to end GBV from the Conference include the following.



(i) **Adopt, review, and implement legislative measures to address all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in all areas of life.**

All but one PIC is party to, or has signed, CEDAW and most have begun to address gender discriminatory policies and laws. However, only the Republic of the Marshall Islands has comprehensively reviewed its domestic laws in preparation for CEDAW-compliant legislative reform.

In the past five years, some existing laws have been amended and new laws have been introduced to strengthen legislative frameworks to end violence against women in PICTs. Most countries have domestic violence legislation, pending legislation (Niue), or partial legislation on domestic violence. In FSM, two of the four states have state domestic violence laws. Implementation of DV legislation continues to be a challenge for governments and ensuring that services and information are available and accessible for people in the communities. In 2019 the Regional Working Group on the Implementation of Domestic Violence legislation (RWG) was established to support countries in the implementation of the legislation. It was also an opportunity for the lead government ministries to share best practices in the implementation of DV legislation.

Few PICTs formally address sexual harassment in the workplace and where it is addressed, it is generally only dealt with as a policy issue through guidelines or codes of conduct within public service employment. In Fiji, sexual harassment complaints can be directly dealt with using the law. In Kiribati and the Solomon Islands, the law can be used if sexual harassment complaints are filed as sexual assault cases.<sup>6</sup> Tonga undertook a gender audit of its public service in 2018, and for the first-time recognised gender-based bullying and harassment as offences.

<sup>5</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference for Pacific Women – Outcomes Document, 2017. Available at: <https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/wordpresscontent/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Endorsed-Outcomes-of-13e-triennial-conference-of-Pacific-women.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> International Labour Organization, 2015. *Eliminating sexual harassment in workplaces in the Pacific*. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/policy/wcms\\_407363.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/policy/wcms_407363.pdf)

- (ii) **Develop and strengthen partnerships between women and men, and between government institutions, CSOs, FBOs, unions and the private sector to support initiatives to promote gender equality, ensure leadership on gender equality, and support family life education that promotes gender equality and human rights.**

There needs to be continued collaboration between government and CSOs in ensuring that there is strengthened partnerships in the implementation of strategies. Fiji undertook extensive consultations in the development of its *Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol Responding to Cases of Gender Based Violence*. The Service Delivery Protocol works towards ensuring provision of appropriate, timely and quality services for survivors of gender based violence together with accountability and justice for perpetrators.<sup>7</sup>

Support from regional organisations ensures national CSOs and governments continue to provide services and develop policies that are relevant. This support has seen the development of innovative options and practices, specifically in the violence prevention spaces. For example, under the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (PPEVAWG) programme, in Kiribati, RMI, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, SPC is working with Ministries of Education to support the public school system to connect human rights and responsibilities, gender equality, social inclusion, and ending violence against women and girls, to national cultural values and practices through the school curriculum, policies and teaching practices. UN Women is promoting gender equitable social norms at individual and community levels to prevent VAWG, and ensures that survivors have access to quality response services. The Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is empowering national and regional civil society organisations (CSOs) to advocate, monitor and report on regional institutions and government commitments to enhance gender equality and prevent VAWG. This is complemented by youth-led community engagement focused on youth and other community members on these topics.<sup>8</sup>

- (iii) **Governments, the private sector, CROP agencies and development partners to increase financing and sustained investment to develop and support legislation, policies and programmes that challenge harmful gender norms, gender stereotypes and all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence.**

Civil society organisations, especially women's NGOs, already often under-resourced in providing services to domestic violence survivors, were further strained in responding or unable to respond to the increased demand for their services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, governments and civil society organisations sought to adapt their responses to domestic violence during the pandemic. In RMI, Vanuatu, FSM and Tuvalu, the government agency responsible for gender affairs was involved in advising government COVID-19 responses in terms of managing GBV cases or, in some instances, assisting with the correct management of these cases. Vanuatu, RMI and FSM developed specific GBV messaging as part of general COVID-19 awareness. FSM and the Solomon Islands updated their referral pathways to make them more accessible and to include additional COVID-19 related health precautions. Other PICs have allocated specific resources to undertake a rapid gender survey to inform their work.<sup>9</sup>

### 3. COVID-19 pandemic impact

The response to COVID-19 varied in the PICTs. However, what was common was that the restrictions put in place have left particularly vulnerable women experiencing violence in their homes.

No PICTs have specific provisions in their domestic violence laws to allow survivors exemptions to access essential services during emergencies.

Many PICT governments redirected funding and resources towards efforts to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 during 2020 and in doing so, less resources were then available for essential services required by survivors of domestic violence.

<sup>7</sup> Fiji Government, 2018. *Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol Responding to Cases of Gender Based Violence*.

Available at: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2019/09/unwomen-gbv-22jan2019-print.pdf?la=en&vs=4716>

<sup>8</sup> Joint Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Pacific Community (SPC) Submission, 2020. *Australian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Human Rights of Women and Girls in the Pacific*.

Available at: [https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/documents/general%20SPC%20documents/PIFS-SPC%20Joint%20Submission%20\(17%20July%202020\).pdf](https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/documents/general%20SPC%20documents/PIFS-SPC%20Joint%20Submission%20(17%20July%202020).pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Drawn from Pacific Community (SPC), 2021. *Beijing +25: Review of the progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories report*.

Available at: <https://bit.ly/3AUsBMG>

## Gender-responsive climate justice - BRIEF

This paper serves to highlight some of the key gender equality issues related to gender responsive climate justice. The brief summarises content in the recently published 'Beijing +25' Pacific region review report<sup>10</sup> and provides a review of progress against key recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women. It also draws on the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of Gender Responsive Climate Action in the Context of Sustainable Development and the position paper from the Women's Major Group for the 2018 High Level Political Forum on 'transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'.



### 1. Summary of the issue

Climate change, global warming and rising sea levels threaten particularly people living in island countries and coastal communities and has differing social and economic impact across populations where marginalised and underprivileged might feel the brunt of this impact. Climate justice is a term and more than that, a movement, increasingly used to acknowledge how climate change can exacerbate inequitable development.<sup>11</sup> Amidst the increasing intensity of natural disasters in the Pacific region due to climate change, women's knowledge and role in the management of natural resources, and preparation and response to natural disasters often are undervalued or overlooked. Gender inequalities in terms of women's limited access to financial resources, technology, health services and decision-making processes negatively affect their ability to cope with climate change related impacts, further exacerbating their situation.

The increasing vulnerability of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to more frequent and severe tropical cyclones, flooding and droughts requires unparalleled levels of political commitment to mitigation and adaptation efforts. Central to this is ensuring a gender responsive approach to climate action that recognises women's agency and leadership role in climate action.<sup>12</sup> Addressing persistent gender gaps in the response to climate change is one of the most effective mechanisms for building climate resilience and reducing emissions. Efforts to address these gaps are dependent upon participatory democracy that is centred on justice and empowers both women and men to make informed decisions on development issues, including regarding their bodies, households, communities, and global governance.<sup>13</sup> The complex lived realities of women requires a deeper gendered analysis as this intersects with other factors such as race and class compound the disadvantages the most marginalised women, such as women with disabilities, face in terms of enjoying their rights.

<sup>10</sup> Pacific Community (SPC), 2021. *Beijing +25: Review of the progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories report*.

Available at: <https://bit.ly/3AU5BMG>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15\\_Annex1\\_Glossary.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15_Annex1_Glossary.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> See Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2019; Pacific Community (SPC), 2021; Report of the Expert Group Meeting 2015.

<sup>13</sup> Expert Group Meeting, 2015. *Implementation of Gender Responsive Climate Action in the Context of Sustainable Development*.

Available at: [https://unfccc.int/files/gender\\_and\\_climate\\_change/application/pdf/egmreport\\_bonn\\_final\\_25\\_november\\_2015.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/egmreport_bonn_final_25_november_2015.pdf)

Regional and global processes have highlighted that addressing the needs and rights of both women and men in climate policy and action and disaster risk management includes investing in the collection of gender data, valuing women's time and factoring in women's unpaid work. A focus is also required on building women's resilience to climate change impacts through supporting their role in agriculture and fisheries recognising their traditional knowledge and adaptation practices. Also necessary is the support to local women's organisations, including through strategic planning and training to access climate finance mechanisms. This should be supported by attitudinal change and a commitment to informing national policies with women's on-the-ground realities and experiences.<sup>14</sup> However, entry points for integrating gender within agriculture, fisheries and climate change initiatives are context specific and there cannot be a 'one size fits all' approach in the Pacific.



## 2. Strategic alignment to regional and international commitments

Numerous commitments to gender equality and addressing climate change have been made at the national, regional and global level. Commitments include the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2017); the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2012); the Beijing Platform for Action (1995); the Gender Action Plan adopted at COP23 (2017); the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); recommendations made at various Commission on the Status of Women Conferences and at the Triennial Conferences of Pacific Women (2013, 2017); the Communiqués of the Ministers for Women meetings (2013, 2017); the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), the BOE Declaration on Regional Security (2020 and Action Plan); and the Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

PICTs also have made national commitments, notably through the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and national gender policies that either include specific gender responsive climate change as priority areas or call for gender mainstreaming in all areas of policy making and government processes, including climate change and disaster risk management.

The 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Meetings of Ministers for Women identified key issues and recommendations to enhance gender responsive climate justice. In this context, this paper provides a selection of examples of implemented actions<sup>15</sup> for learning and reflection against these 'common recommendations' regarding gender responsive climate justice.

<sup>14</sup> These recommendations or similar are found in the 12<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women Outcomes Document, the Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of Gender-Responsive Climate Action in the Context of Sustainable Development, the Women's Major Group Position Paper for the 2018 High Level Political Forum – Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies and further emphasized in the Beijing +25: Review of progress in implementation the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories.

<sup>15</sup> Examples are drawn from SPC, 2021. *Beijing +25: Review of the progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories report*. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3AU5BMG>



(i) **Gender mainstreaming in climate policy and action.**

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is the only PICT to formally commit to a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach in all its Nationally Determined Contributions<sup>16</sup> (NDC) related planning, programming and implementation, and to using the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines in the future. Fiji also committed to this approach in its National Adaptation Plan 2018. Palau and Tuvalu have submitted their national UNFCCC Gender Action Plan assessments. More climate change sectors in PICTS are integrating gender responsive actions into their work: for example, the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology has integrated gender concerns across the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan and various research and community focussed projects using an approach that recognises women’s unique knowledge of biodiversity and includes them across the project cycle; Samoa’s National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) has a Gender in Disaster Risk Management Policy; Shefa and Sanma Provinces in Vanuatu have mainstreamed disaster risk reduction, safety and security into the UN Women ‘Markets 4 Change’ Project, which is aligned to the National Disaster Plan and includes training for the majority women vendors and local authorities. Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu all have gendered considerations reflected in their respective national climate change and related policies either as goals, key outcomes or guiding principles but support is required to put these commitments into action and monitoring required to better understand how and to what extent countries are mainstreaming these gender considerations.

(ii) **Gender data collection and use.**

Vanuatu’s National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) Cyclone Support Plan (2018) and Tsunami Support Plan (2019) mainstream gender, protection and social inclusion. The NDMO’s National Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) disaggregates vulnerable categories such as people with disabilities, single and female headed households, child headed households, elderly headed households, widows and pregnant and lactating women. This collection of data provides a strong baseline for planning, implementation and monitoring of response and recovery programmes. Overall, data on changes in women’s and men’s work burdens as a consequence of droughts, floods, or deforestation, is not available. There is also no monitoring of impacts of climate change on the lives of women and men. Further, sex-disaggregated data on the impact of natural hazards on education, health, food and economic security needs to be strengthened in national statistical reports and accompanied with gendered analysis.

(iii) **Decision-making and women’s leadership.**

*Women are strongly represented within environmental NGOs across the Pacific, including in leadership roles and play strong advocacy and advisory roles.* PICTs continue to include diverse groups of women through community networks and NGOs in policy reviews and development on climate change and disaster management. For example, the Women’s Weather Watch (Women Wetem Weta), involving women in the community, contributes to disaster planning, response and preparedness works in close consultation with Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees and the Vanuatu NDMO. *There is also a strong representation of ni-Vanuatu women in all aspects of humanitarian preparedness and response, including in consultations, assessments and monitoring missions and in some emergencies. Further, women continue to contribute to disaster management work through the Gender Protection Cluster led by the Division for Women’s Affairs and established under the NDMO.*

<sup>16</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Marshall%20Islands%20Second/20181122%20Marshall%20Islands%20NDC%20to%20UNFCCC%2022%20November%202018%20FINAL.pdf>

- (iv) **Build women's resilience to climate change impacts and sustain their livelihood in agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, recognising their traditional knowledge and sustainable, traditional adaptation and mitigation practices.**

Several PICTs have undertaken gender assessments of the fisheries and agriculture sectors and relevant government agencies continue to work with SPC technical divisions for agriculture, fisheries, human rights and gender equality to ensure the role, knowledge and specific concerns of women are recognised in programming and policies. Intensive gender mainstreaming work in the fisheries sector has included the production and use of gender equity and social inclusion handbooks<sup>17</sup> to support gender mainstreaming in this sector. A focus on women's empowerment through support to women in SMEs in aquaculture, coastal fisheries and agriculture (organic farming) continues through various regional and bilateral support programmes.



### 3. COVID-19 pandemic impact

COVID-19 is another factor which Pacific Island communities currently are dealing with and which is outside of their control just like natural disasters and climate change impacts. Women and girls across the Pacific already bear the brunt of unpaid work which was already intensified due to climate change impacts – whether it is caring for the sick or elderly family members collecting food, water and fuel. COVID-19 put a further focus on the extent to which paid and unpaid care work in the Pacific, overwhelmingly performed by women, has supported underfunded public health and social services. Loss of employment across the Pacific due to COVID-19 resulted in increased pressure on fisheries and farming activities. However, not many changes were reported in the sharing of food within villages and remote communities like in Vava'u group in Tonga and the Lau group in Fiji, demonstrating an element of resilience to outside shocks for some communities.<sup>18</sup> This was not the case for many parts of Papua New Guinea. Severe weather patterns induced by climate change has meant harsher realities when dealing with the pandemic. In PNG, issues of food availability were exacerbated where COVID-19 coincided with the dry season in New Ireland and Central Provinces. States of emergencies, lockdowns and curfews also meant the closure of local markets and reduced trading hours. This impacted coastal communities in PNG, who depended on markets on the mainland to purchase agricultural products and sell fish and other marine resources.

A lack of income and money meant many families were unable to access health centres, usually situated on the mainland (Lau et al, 2020).

Recognising the vulnerable public health systems and the socio-economic uncertainties brought on by the pandemic, a regional socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 endorsed by Forum Economic Ministers in August 2020 is being led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. However, noting the severe, disproportionate and unpredictable impacts of COVID-19 on the livelihoods of people in the small, isolated and vulnerable economies of the Pacific and the ongoing border closures, job losses and the onslaught of tropical cyclones in 2020 and 2021, it is likely recovery will be slow and its impacts felt well into the future.

<sup>17</sup> [https://coastfish.spc.int/index.php?option=com\\_content&Itemid=30&id=494](https://coastfish.spc.int/index.php?option=com_content&Itemid=30&id=494)

<sup>18</sup> <https://lmmnetwork.org/our-work-covid-19-community-impacts/>



## Women's economic empowerment – BRIEF

This brief serves to highlight some of the key gender equality issues relating to women's economic empowerment (WEE). The brief summarises content in the recently published 'Beijing +25' Pacific region review report.<sup>19</sup> It also provides a review of progress against the recommendations from the 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women on the theme 'Economic Empowerment of Pacific Women: Challenges and Opportunities'.



### 1. Summary of the issue

Women's economic empowerment is a 'development game changer': when more women participate in the formal or informal economy, their families, communities, and countries become more prosperous. This empowerment requires the removal of barriers such as discriminatory laws and social and cultural norms that result in women's assumed responsibility for home and family care unpaid work. It also requires the upscaling of initiatives to address the drivers and causes of gender inequality, exclusion, and vulnerability. This 'game changer' has significant financial rewards: it is estimated that closing gender gaps in labour force participation by 25% could add as much as USD \$3.2 trillion to the overall Asia-Pacific Gross Domestic Product.<sup>20</sup> Across the Pacific, men outnumber women in paid employment by approximately two to one.<sup>21</sup> Yet many women, notably young women and including women living with disability, outnumber men in unemployment rates.<sup>22</sup> Women want and deserve decent paid work. However, the reality is that Pacific labour markets are small, job creation is low, in most countries dominated by the public sector, with 'external accounts' reliant on trade in tourism and associated goods and services and remittances. Meanwhile, the unpaid subsistence or 'own account production and consumption' sector accounts for a significant proportion of (unpaid) workers and is the main type of work or economic activity for women in many Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). Some economies benefit from extractive industries (mining, logging, etc.), largely with male dominated employment, along with potential harmful social and environmental impacts.

<sup>19</sup> Pacific Community (SPC), 2021. *Beijing +25: Review of the progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories report*. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3AUsBMG>

<sup>20</sup> International Labour Organization, 'Game Changers: Women and work in Asia and the Pacific', cited in Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, 2018. *Economic Empowerment Overview*. Available at: [https://pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EconomicEmpowerment\\_PacificWomen\\_January2020.pdf](https://pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EconomicEmpowerment_PacificWomen_January2020.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia, 'Development assistance in the Pacific', cited in Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, 2020. *Economic Empowerment Overview*. Available at: [https://pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EconomicEmpowerment\\_PacificWomen\\_January2020.pdf](https://pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EconomicEmpowerment_PacificWomen_January2020.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> See SDG Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, *Pacific Data Hub*, accessed 12 March 2021.

Gender disparities and inequalities in economic empowerment result from a number of intersecting factors, including attitudinal and structural barriers to equal participation by women and men in decision-making; legal systems that favour men in inheritance and ownership and/or use of resources, including control over so-called 'royalty' payments for extractive industries; high costs of employment related grievance, mediation and arbitration processes in relation to women's disposable incomes; limited organised worker support (e.g. trade unions, workers associations or the like) in employment sectors where women predominate; migrant/contract labour schemes that do not promote gender parity; limited markets or market access for women; limited or no safeguards for intellectual property rights, notably in cultural and creative industries and the handcrafts produced by women; gender pay gaps; gender barriers to (post-)secondary education and training; entrenched occupational concentration and segregation of women in 'care' or service sectors such as education, health, retail trade and hospitality; lack of affordable and accessible child care. All these factors combine with prevailing broader value systems that link masculinity with authority and control over women. Women living in urban areas and women living in rural or remote (inland or island) communities, migrant or non-indigenous women experience different intersecting economic deprivations. These structural, institutional and social divides must be addressed if women's economic empowerment is to progress beyond income generating opportunities.

Current WEE initiatives in PICTs promote economic equality in the formal and informal sectors through i) increasing job opportunities in the formal sector through equal employment, including equal pay for equal work; ii) reducing impediments to informal sector activity where women often dominate; and iii) simplifying processes for business licencing and access to finance and credit for women. Social protection programmes are emerging, notably those involving cash transfers or in-kind transfers to individuals, micro and small business incubator initiatives including access to collateral and credit and other financial services, business skills development, savings schemes and other forms of social insurance. Youth initiatives are also ongoing in many PICTs and include conditional cash transfers for education and training support, human resource development plans, job seeker registers, and increased scholarships awarded for education and training. Several programmes are supporting women in vulnerable or informal employment through improved market facilities, inclusive governance and security for women market vendors (e.g. Markets for Change).



## 2. Strategic alignment to regional and international commitments

Numerous commitments to gender equality and women's economic empowerment have been made at the national, regional and global level. Commitments include the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2017); Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2012); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); recommendations made at the Commission on the Status of Women Conferences and at the Triennial Conferences of Pacific Women (2010, 2013, 2017); the Communiqués of the Ministers for Women meetings (2011, 2013, 2017); the Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016-2025); the outcomes statement at the Fifth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability (2017). The new ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (Convention 190, 2019), recently ratified by Fiji, adds significantly to the corpus of international laws protecting women's economic rights. This is in addition to other labour and human rights conventions relating to child labour and the right to decent work.

PICTs also have made national commitments, notably through the ratification of human rights conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and various ILO conventions (for ILO member states), alongside national gender policies and national development plans with specific WEE outcomes. This includes maternity leave provisions in nearly all PICTs, and extending to paternity leave in some PICTs.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers for Women (2017) identified key issues and broad areas requiring action to economically empower women.<sup>23</sup> Examples and evidence of progress made regarding specific WEE outcomes from the Conference include as follows.

(i) **Enhance the generation of knowledge to inform policies and decision-making, and support advocacy for women's economic empowerment.**

**Knowledge:** Two main areas are apparent:

1) PICT collection, compilation and dissemination of gender data and statistics, one about gender data and statistics including a series of gender and disability 'monographs' as well as sex disaggregation and analysis in other reports, notably employment and unemployment as well as poverty and deprivation. 'Domestic violence' modules have been included in Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICSs), providing gender-based violence prevalence indicators presented against a range of socio-economic variables, including employment and wealth. Recommendations from research regarding workplace harassment, childcare and employees experience of domestic violence are being implemented in several enterprises. Some PICTs have formed formal committees or networks to identify and address gaps in gender data and statistics.

2) At the regional level the Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics provides the guiding framework to support Pacific national statistical systems to generate quality, relevant and timely gender data that meets users' needs to advance gender equality; and sex disaggregation is standard for all labour market indicators in all PICs in the Pacific Data Hub.

**Advocacy:** Official reports including SDG Voluntary National Reviews, UPR, and CEDAW have included sex disaggregated data and analysis of WEE including recommendations for addressing priority issues. There is evidence that a number of PICTs are using gender data and statistics for advocacy to support WEE through social media posts, and larger campaigns focusing on the economic cost of gender-based violence (as part of '16 Days') and the like, noting that SPC has limited capacity to track these activities and processes.

<sup>23</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference for Pacific Women – Outcomes Document, 2017. Available at: <https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/wordpresscontent/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Endorsed-Outcomes-of-13e-triennial-conference-of-Pacific-women.pdf>

(ii) **Mainstream gender across all legislation, policies, programmes and services delivered by governments, CROP agencies and CSOs.**

A number of PICTs have improved coverage and benefits relating to maternity, paternity and familial leave, notably the Cook Islands paid maternity leave legislation, and minimum wage increases in a number of PICTs. Some PICTs are implementing job seeker programmes including registers, work placements and internships; youth-focused work initiatives have gender parity targets for participants and include training modules in gender equality and empowerment; the RMI Gender Equality Act is progressive legislation based on CEDAW compliance including women's rights to decent work (§114 Employment); as well as revisions to public service regulations, policies and training programmes in a number of PICTs. Government gender mainstreaming initiatives with a WEE dimension include the implementation of recommendations from gender assessments highlighting women's roles in a number of sectors, notably fisheries and agriculture more broadly, energy, transport, climate change, disaster risk reduction and management, and public safety (police and armed forces). Numerous projects and programmes led by governments and CSOs directly or indirectly have WEE dimensions, including those relating to livelihoods, TEVET, WASH, leadership, food security and renewable energy. A number of CROP agencies are in the process of reviewing human resource policies to strengthen gender equality, or have recently completed such reviews to protect women employees including provisions relating to anti-discrimination, 'zero tolerance' of workplace violence and support for survivors of domestic violence.

(iii) **Develop and strengthen effective partnerships between government institutions, academics, CSOs, FBOs, CROP agencies and the private sector so that women and men of all ages, across all levels of society, are empowered as individuals and communities to address gender justice issues on employment and employment relations.**

Women in Business groups or networks are being established or expanding in some PICTs; likewise chambers of commerce (or equivalents) offer a range of training programmes specifically for women entrepreneurs and access to credit has expanded through a wider range of 'lending products', more flexibility in eligibility criteria, lower rates of interest and more flexible repayment schedules. There are some examples of coordinated multi-stakeholder partnerships supporting WEE, notably Youth@Work (or like) initiatives that have gender parity targets; seasonal worker programmes in Australia and New Zealand have improved recruitment of women (still not parity); a range of women in business initiatives by organisations such as the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) including some public-private partnerships; increased financial inclusion and access to a wider range financial services such as mobile banking and other 'digital' innovations; as well as recommendations made by Forum Economic Ministers to promote women's economic empowerment.



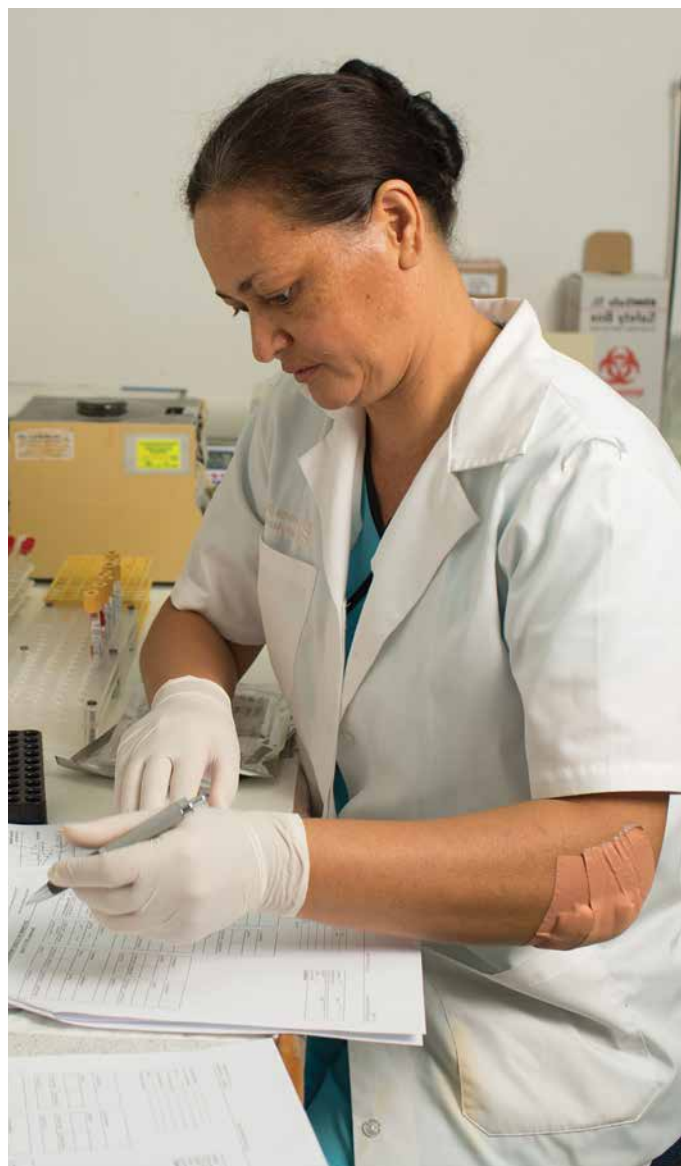
Youth@Work, Solomon Islands

### 3. COVID-19 pandemic impact

COVID-19 impacts are not gender-neutral. Significant impacts include those related to regional trade and food security, especially in countries reliant on imported food with limited community food production systems, resulting in women either to spend more time producing food or increase their incomes to pay for higher priced foods. Likewise, women who sell produce and/or market primary produce have reduced incomes due to shrinking economies. Research in Tuvalu found that a majority of women (81%) were impacted in terms of a greater time burden from unpaid work caring for elderly family members and children not attending school during 2020. The ‘opportunity cost’ of this unpaid work is that women didn’t have spare time to engage in income generating activities, typically handicraft production. The research found that ‘strong’ communities helped people to cope better with COVID-19, as people supported each other in communal living and sharing resources like tools and water; and that women viewed this as an opportunity to reconnect children with cultural food production and ‘ways of working’.

In other more ‘monetarised’ economies, dependent on external sectors such as tourism, sectors that traditionally employ a large proportion of women, impacts are more severe. In Fiji, for example, the ‘formal’ safety nets are viewed as inadequate for women, with gender gaps in eligibility for economic stimulus subsidies and how these are applied; women’s roles in value chains were not specifically recognised or because of ‘informal’ employment were not eligible; employment subsidies received by women were insufficient to meet their basic costs of living.

Other systemic and institutional barriers identified in a number of countries, including PNG, include the closure of markets, limits to number of vendors allowed, and reduced operating hours of markets which mostly affected women who comprise 80-90% of market vendors and those with associated incomes. Informal sector workers such as market vendors rely on a tenuous income, with no or very limited social insurance or protection. Further, often these women do not have autonomy or decision-making authority over how their income is spent within their households. Evidence is also emerging of the negative impacts of COVID-19 on female owned businesses and female-dominated industries, though there is a need for empirical evidence in this area.



# ANNEX 5. SUMMARY OF SIDE EVENTS

1. The Fourteenth Triennial Conference included nineteen side events that provided opportunities to learn about approaches and share experiences relating to the three thematic areas of the conference. The side events were held virtually around the conference plenary sessions.

This annex provides summaries of the events and recommendations that emerged (not all sessions put forward recommendations).

## **Women's full and meaningful participation in climate change-related decision-making.**

### *Organiser:*

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

2. This side event focused on what it means to fully integrate human rights and gender in climate action, particularly in the sphere of meaningful, informed, effective participation and in relation to the principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). It provided a space for women from the Pacific to share experiences and insights into the climate change-related decision-making process, including best practices and challenges faced. The event also provided an opportunity to discuss strategies that take a human rights-based approach to climate action and how to strengthen the capacity of women in the Pacific to do this.

## **Women of the Blue Pacific: Leading response and recovery in times of crisis.**

### *Organisers:*

Fiji Women's Rights Movement/We Rise Coalition.

3. This session focused on the role of Pacific feminist movements in times of crisis. The session provided the opportunity for members of the We Rise Coalition to share best practices and various modalities of response and recovery, highlighting issues of safety and security, food security, health and economic security. Climate disasters and COVID-19 continue to demonstrate the significant efforts of women leaders to respond to the needs of communities.

4. The following recommendations emerged from this event:

- Ensure women and girls have access to proper and quality information as communication is key during times of crisis
- Ensure women's participation in key decision-making bodies in the areas of response and recovery efforts
- Ensure continuous support for women's CSOs in the region in the areas of humanitarian aid, GBV and climate justice
- Ensure collaborative approaches by all stakeholders to introduce transformative policies that prioritise women's and girls' safety.

## **From participation to power: Mapping economic pathways to women's empowerment.**

### *Organisers:*

Pacific Women, Vanuatu Skills Partnership, CARE PNG.

5. This session focused on strategic and practical measures to enhance women's economic empowerment (WEE) in the Pacific region. Pacific practitioners and community implementers in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu showcased practical, successful approaches for truly empowering women economically. The gender-transformative approaches to WEE programming outlined in the session are models that are effective for replication and scale up. They can be used to inform national policy action and to improve practice and implementation.

## **Rakorako: Building flexible and resilient workplaces in Fiji.**

### *Organisers:*

International Finance Corporation (IFC), Fiji Human Resources Institute (FHRI), Rakorako, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

6. The session showcased good practices from the Rakorako programme that have enabled participating private sector companies to manage the impact of COVID-19 and disasters such as tropical cyclones, and foster flexible and resilient workplaces for all employees. IFC and FHRI carried out a webinar series titled *Rakorako: Building a safe and resilient business* to help the private sector address childcare demands and workplace responses to domestic and sexual violence.

**Women in ocean governance: Promises and challenges (what do women bring to the table that enhances effective ocean governance?).**

*Organiser:*

Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

7. This session provided a space for women involved in ocean governance to share their experience and the impacts of their involvement in the development and implementation of national, regional and international ocean policy, highlighting in particular what they bring to the table that enhances effective ocean governance. The event also provided an opportunity to explore the promises and challenges faced by women in ocean governance.

**Market vendor associations: Advancing women's economic empowerment in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.**

*Organiser:*

UN Women.

8. This session highlighted the significant role of market vendor associations and women leaders in addressing the barriers and challenges that women face in accessing economic opportunities in the informal sector (markets). It also highlighted how market vendor associations are one way of improving conditions for women working in the informal sector. The session showed how women are driving change, which is in turn developing women in leadership positions at the local level. The space also provided the opportunity for market management to share experiences of supporting women-led solutions.

**Queer movement building and co-creating feminist realities in an era of confronting intersectional justice – transforming a fierce new world.**

*Organisers:*

Haus of Khameleon, Rainbow Pride, International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network, Access Chapter 2 (South Africa) and Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (St Lucia - Caribbean).

9. The side event provided regional interlinked and intersectional responses by queer activists on multiple crises, including new initiatives that challenge hetero hegemonic thinking and systems in economics, finance, environmental policy-making and GBV. The session also covered mapping current measures, mechanisms and programmes from an intersectional approach, and provided a platform to highlight an analysis of what queer communities have been experiencing and how they have been used to address the pandemic.

**Strengthening our ecosystems to empower Pacific women entrepreneurs and women in business.**

*Organisers:*

PIFS, Asian Development Bank, Center for International Private Enterprise, and others.

10. This side event provided a space for women entrepreneurs, young women, and practitioners to share experiences and practices and also learn from support networks that contribute to enhancing the ecosystem that enables and empowers women entrepreneurs.

**Toksava Pacific Gender Resource – panel and launch.**

*Organisers:*

University of Auckland, University of the South Pacific, National University of Samoa, University of Papua New Guinea, SPC and Australian National University.

11. The Toksava Pacific Gender Resource aims to address gender inequality in the Pacific by ensuring quality Pacific research and knowledge are discoverable and accessible. This session included a demonstration of the Toksava Pacific Gender Resource website and a panel discussion with eminent academics in the field of gender research. The panellists provided a 'herstory' of the Toksava Pacific Gender Resource from its early design stages to its launch. They also discussed the role of quality research in addressing gender inequalities in the Pacific.

**Time to care: Women's and girls' unpaid care and domestic work in the Pacific.**

*Organiser:*

Shifting Power Shifting Voices (OXFAM).

12. This side event provided the opportunity for the Shifting Power Shifting Voices programme to present and reflect on the findings of a rapid care analysis report. The presenters provided evidence-based insights on how gendered patterns of unpaid work result in poor development outcomes for women, and how most public policies further cement inequalities. The event promoted discussion of how the burden of care work is impacting on women's economic empowerment, gender equality and sustainable development. It also provided a catalytic learning space and process for interested activists, advocates, policy developers and other feminists to work to continually build the personal and political and make the case for societal and state change. The session proposed some solutions for addressing unpaid care and domestic work.

13. The following recommendations were made.

Overall, include unpaid care work in national accounts in order to make its social and economic value visible by:

- using participatory and gender-responsive budgeting methods to allocate funds for public goods and services that reach all areas of society;
- allocating public financing and resourcing for social protection systems and public social infrastructure, including sexual and reproductive services;
- regularly reviewing national policies, programmes and projects as well as their implementation, evaluating the impact of training, employment and income policies in order to guarantee that all women and gender non-binary people are direct beneficiaries of development, and that their full contribution to development, both remunerated and unremunerated, is considered in socio-economic and ecological policy and planning; and
- investing in national care systems to address the disproportionate responsibility for care work done by women and girls.

### **Women of the land and the sea.**

#### *Organisers:*

SPC, Loving Island, Rabi Organics, UN Women, WorldFish and Wildlife Conservation Society.

14. The side event allowed panellists to share best practices and lessons learnt about inclusive and sustainable value chains within the agriculture and fisheries sectors across the Pacific. Case studies were shared that identified entry points to mainstreaming gender in value-chain development and efficient and inclusive value-chain interventions that support women's economic empowerment within these sectors. Shifting debates in agriculture and fisheries development towards women's economic empowerment along value chains from land and marine resources is seen as an area of underinvestment. It has the potential to unfold women's multiple skills, hard work and innovation, and to support their tireless journey of providing for their families, communities and nations. The discussions also created an opportunity to reflect on the need to apply a holistic approach to value-chain development that considers environmental, economic and social factors and the integration of land-based and marine activities within island and atoll ecosystems.

15. The following recommendations emerged:

- Increase the collection of gender disaggregated data in the agriculture and fisheries sectors to inform effective, relevant and customised interventions and policies.
- Apply a holistic approach to value-chain interventions that go beyond the economic benefits and consider the ecological and human dimensions as well.
- Collaborate with relevant government ministries that work in agriculture and fisheries to implement gender-inclusive approaches within their own ministries and roll these out nationally.
- Recognise and support women's economic empowerment as a good strategy to achieve all the other SDGs. Investing in women's economic empowerment has the potential to boost economic and social development for women themselves and the wider community, mitigate climate change and alleviate poverty.

### **Pacific Women in 2030: Envisioning an inclusive and equitable Pacific workforce.**

#### *Organisers:*

Australia Pacific Training Coalition and SPC.



16. The side event provided a space to discuss how investing in women's education, economic empowerment and skills development provides an effective means of driving progress on gender equality, income parity, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. Panellists and participants were given the opportunity to envision learning pathways for girls to access education, skills development, support and opportunities for equitable and inclusive work in 2030 (with a focus on women in trade and other non-traditional roles). The talanoa utilised the metaphor of opening doors and was enriched with the concept of *matanikatuba* – a symbolic door or point of entry providing accessibility and support.
17. Three recommendations were offered for consideration in support of the Blue Pacific vision for the region. The recommendations align with the objectives of Pacific development frameworks, in particular the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) and Pacific Roadmap to Sustainable Development.

**World of work:** Escalate collective efforts between governments, the private sector, donor agencies and civil society to advance an inclusive and equitable world of work, including the right to decent work for Pacific women of all diversities. To do this, progressively identify and address all forms of discriminatory legislation, the gender pay gap, motherhood penalty, restrictive gender roles, discriminatory hiring practices, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, gendered forms of discrimination and stereotypes, and occupational segregation, particularly in reference to trade-related sectors.

**Education – skills – employment pathways:** Proactively create and invest in opportunities for greater information, awareness and access for women and girls to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and technical vocational education and training through flexible, enabling, inclusive and gender-responsive education to employment pathways, in all its forms.

**Connecting the education and employment system:**

Place women and girls at the centre of plans, priorities and investments, and identify the pivot points of our education and employment systems to make it easier for the girl student to make informed and supported choices on the learning pathways she can access towards her preferred future role, job and career. These pivot points can be strengthened by tabling (considering) recommendations from ministers of education, ministers of women and relevant skills summits at respective meetings so that collective action propels the Pacific towards a more equitable and inclusive work choice and workplace.

**Ratification of International Labour Organization Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 and advancing gender equality in the world of work.**

*Organisers:*

UN Women, ILO and Fiji Women's Rights Movement.

18. This side event discussed the right to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment, and highlighted the barriers and challenges that women face in accessing economic opportunities in the informal and informal sectors. The event also highlighted how market vendor associations are one way of improving conditions for women working in the informal sector and how women are driving change and developing women in leadership positions at the local level.

**Curves and violence: Measuring the gender-based violence curve to flatten it.**

*Organisers:*

UNFPA, University of Melbourne and SPC.

19. This side event highlighted GBV data trends and provided a space for national statisticians and GBV practitioners to share lessons learned in collecting, compiling and using GBV data for advocacy, policy, etc. The event provided an update on administrative and survey sources of GBV data (under the Spotlight Initiative) and provided examples of how analysis of gender data statistics is an essential component in developing knowledge products to underpin gender-responsive policy development.

20. The following recommendations emerged:

- Invest in and strengthen the production of administrative data and systems.
- Strengthen the agency, decision-making and bodily autonomy of women and girls, and the promotion of positive masculinities.
- Seek to adopt gender transformative<sup>24</sup> approaches that challenge gender inequalities.
- Support local research skills and build capacity to conduct, analyse and disseminate research on violence against women in ways that meet international best practice standards.

#### **Revitalising our Pacific womb.**

*Organiser:*

Pacific Conference of Churches.

21. The side event provided an opportunity for different groups in the PCC community to voice their views based on the theme of the Triennial and discussed the identity of the Pacific, given the increase in cases of GBV. The PCC works through spiritual theology as the basis of speaking truth to injustice, recognising that church leaders can influence patriarchal discussions at every level of the community. Working from a spiritual perspective in the Pacific allows the churches to challenge injustice. The PCC, as a group of churches, continues to confront the role of churches in negative contributions and violence towards women and girls of the Pacific based on church attitudes and biblical interpretations. The PCC continues to acknowledge abuses of power practised against women and girls in the Pacific.

#### **Solutions to end violence against women and girls where we play, pray and engage.**

*Organisers:*

UN Women, Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, House of Sarah and Oceania Rugby.

22. This event highlighted innovative solutions to prevent violence against women and girls across the region by communities, influential stakeholders, governments and national institutions. Panellists were given the opportunity to share best practices from interventions in sport, church, communities and government to end violence against women and girls.

#### **Intergenerational discussion: Pacific women in all their diversity working together for a just, sustainable future.**

*Organiser:*

DIVA for Equality.

23. The session provided a space for Pacific governments and civil society to discuss and review progress on gender inclusivity commitments through the Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), over 26 years and through 14 Triennial Conferences. The event took a catalytic approach, with government and CSO delegates speaking on both advancements and obstacles for the inclusion of women, in all their diversity, in Pacific policy and practice, and identifying key local, national, regional and global strategies to advance intersectionality and diversity in human rights and development theory and practice.

#### **Counting women: Using disaggregated data to build a resilient and inclusive Blue Pacific.**

*Organisers:*

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction, SPC and DFAT.

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<sup>24</sup> Gender transformative approaches imply that promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls are central to an intervention/programme. It means that while working to meet the main objectives of the intervention/programme, the approach also helps challenge underlying, harmful gender norms and stereotypes in the process.

24. This session demonstrated the importance of collecting and using disaggregated data, particularly by sex, to understand the differential risk and impact faced by those most severely impacted by climate-induced disasters. Discussions centred on the use of disaggregated data to build a resilient and inclusive Blue Pacific, while also exploring ways in which disaggregated disaster data has been used to inform policies, programmes and investments in the Pacific to reduce the impact of climate-induced disasters on women. The event also promoted the use of technology to improve the collection, analysis, reporting, sharing and use of disaggregated data across the Pacific, and highlighted women's leadership in improving disaggregated data for resilience.

25. Key recommendations that emerged included the following:

- Increase efforts to ensure collection of, access to, and analysis of disaster data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability in the Pacific.
- Include disaggregated data in national and regional reports on progress towards the SDGs and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Establish a Pacific Group on Disaster Statistics to allow countries and partners to share best practices in disaggregated disaster data collection, analysis and use, similar to the model of the Pacific Group on Disability Statistics.
- Develop a standardised regional tool and questionnaire/s for disaster data to support a holistic and systematic approach that informs risk analysis and can be used across the Pacific community.
- Explore technologies to improve data collection.

**Shifting the power and mobilising diverse women's leadership in response to COVID-19 and climate change.**

*Organiser:*

Shifting the Power Coalition.

26. This side event showcased the work of Shifting the Power Coalition and celebrated how diverse Pacific Island women leaders are learning and working together to drive a locally led, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive approach to health emergencies and climate-related disasters. Women leaders from the Pacific Disability Forum, Pacific YWCA movement and ActionAid's Women I Tok Tugetha network shared how women are leading humanitarian action, and how the Pacific Platform for Action can amplify their voices and strengthen their engagement with local and national decision-makers. The event drew attention to how women's rights organisations and women-led disability organisations across the region are working together to strengthen diverse women's voices, agency and decision-making in response to climate change and disasters. It also drew attention to recommendations drawn from Pacific women who have organised women-led teams to deliver public information, distribute food relief and provide other essential items, such as masks, sanitiser and handwashing stations, in their communities, and showcased how women are using communications and technology for early warning and prevention education. Like all emergencies and humanitarian crises, the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting women and girls the hardest, particularly those living in poverty and facing marginalisation. At the same time, diverse Pacific women leaders are rising up to respond to intersecting climate and health crises by integrating COVID-19 prevention measures in locally led disaster response and recovery efforts.



# ANNEX 6. OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

14<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women

27–29 April, 4 May 2021, Virtual Webinar (Endorsed on 4 May 2021)

## Preamble

1. The 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women ('the Conference'), convened by the Pacific Community (SPC) and hosted and chaired by French Polynesia, was held from 27 to 29 April 2021, preceded by side events from 22 to 23 April 2021. The Conference was a fully virtual event with over 1000 participants, reflecting the immense interest the journey of Pacific women and girls of all diversities<sup>25</sup> towards equality. Participants included Pacific Island country and territory (PICT) government delegations, civil society representatives, development partners, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders from within the Blue Pacific continent and beyond.
2. The theme of the Conference '**Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future – Empowering All Women in the Blue Pacific Continent**' reaffirms that the ocean is inseparable from Pacific peoples, cultures, economies and societies. The Pacific Ocean forms a crucial element of Pacific women's identities, ways and knowledge, and is a source of cultural and material empowerment.
3. The 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women ('the Ministerial') followed the Conference, on 4 May 2021, and was attended by honourable ministers responsible for women's affairs, and/or their senior officials, from the following SPC members – Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.
4. This outcomes and recommendations statement represents a summary of the issues discussed and actions agreed at the Conference to progress gender equality in PICTs and was endorsed at the Ministerial. A summary report on the Conference is forthcoming.
5. The Conference and Ministerial focused on three priority areas – women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence, and gender-responsive climate justice; four cross-cutting themes – women in leadership and decision-making; crises and disasters; sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) and statistics; and intergenerational dialogue to ensure the perspectives of Pacific youth are heard. The 19 side events provided a platform to showcase practices, innovative ways of working, and initiatives for cross-learning and sharing. Annex A contains the Conference programme.
6. The Conference and Ministerial recognised and reaffirmed all national, regional and international commitments by PICTs to gender equality, including the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, while acknowledging that implementation remains a challenge for many of them. The Conference and Ministerial further recognised and reaffirmed that advancing gender equality requires a holistic and collaborative approach that leverages partnerships between governments, the media, civil society, the private sector, academia, traditional and faith leaders, communities and families, and requires genuine political commitment at all levels.
7. The Conference and Ministerial noted the interrelated crises affecting the Pacific, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change and disasters, and their crippling impacts including for the long-term prospects for economic well-being and recovery. These crises amplify existing gender inequalities and pose further risks for women and girls of all diversities, potentially derailing efforts to accelerate gender equality. Regional solidarity and global collective action are critical to overcoming these challenges, and to enabling the transition to an inclusive, circular, regenerative green economy.

<sup>25</sup> To clarify the use of 'Pacific women of all diversities' or 'all Pacific women', the Conference took guidance from CEDAW Article 1, which refers to discrimination against women as meaning any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. The use of these terms in this document thus refers to all groups and age groups of Pacific women, including indigenous women, elderly women, girls, women living with disabilities, lesbian and bisexual women, urban poor women, women in rural and maritime areas, and women on the climate frontline.

# Theme: Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future – Empowering All Women in the Blue Pacific Continent

## Launch of the Beijing+25 Pacific Regional Progress Review Report

8. The year 2020 marked the 25th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25). In the Pacific region, SPC joined with the UN Women Pacific Multi-Country Office and the Pacific Region Gender Technical Working Group to produce the Beijing+25 Pacific Regional Progress Review Report. This was launched during the Conference by French Polynesian writer and poet, Flora Aurima Devatine.



## Summary of the Conference's key issues and proposed actions

### Cross-cutting themes

9. The Conference cross-cutting themes are both standalone priority areas as well as key enabling factors for the three Conference priority themes. The Conference called on governments,<sup>26</sup> with the assistance of civil society organisations (CSOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs), Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies, development partners, and the private sector, mentioned in parentheses, as appropriate to implement the following specific actions.

(i) **Women in leadership and decision-making:**

a) Adopt measures to increase women's participation in all levels of leadership and decision-making including political representation, senior positions in the public and private sector and within local and communal governance systems.

*(Governments, private sector)*

b) Support ongoing efforts of the private sector in creating and strengthening leadership pathways for women and demonstrating their capacity as leaders to shift social norms.

*(Governments)*

(ii) **Crises and disasters:**

a) Actively involve women and girls in crisis response and recovery decisions, ensuring humanitarian and recovery programmes are gender responsive and enhance accountability to affected populations.

*(Governments, development partners)*

b) Ensure women's access to essential services during crisis situations, including access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and commodities, and for those affected by gender-based violence (GBV) access to quality counselling, protection and safe housing.

*(Governments, development partners)*

(iii) **Sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) and statistics:**

a) Establish mechanisms to identify gender-sensitive and socially inclusive SADDD and statistics gaps, and plans to address and fill gaps (as prescribed in the Pacific Gender Statistics Roadmap).

*(Governments, development partners)*

b) Ensure National Statistics Offices are given the responsibility and resourced to lead the culturally responsive collection, management and analysis of SADDD and work with decision-makers to inform policy and planning.

*(Governments, development partners)*

<sup>26</sup> 'Government' means governments at all levels in PICTS.

(iv) **Intergenerational dialogue and marginalised groups dialogue and perspectives:**

a) Ensure that national plans, policies and legislation are developed through participatory processes – with a life cycle approach – that include the perspectives of all marginalised groups in the community, including women and youth.

*(Governments, development partners)*

(v) **Collaboration and communication:**

a) Work with partners in media and communications to ensure messages consistent with gender equality and women's rights.

*(Governments, private sector, CROP agencies, development agencies, civil society)*

b) Strengthen coordination and partnerships in all measures taken to advance gender equality and women's rights, including ongoing dialogue and collaboration with civil society, traditional and faith-based leaders and organisations, and communities.

*(Governments, civil society, private sector, CROP agencies, development partners)*

## Priority area: Women's economic empowerment

10. The Conference reaffirmed women's economic empowerment as fundamental for development. The Conference called on governments, with the assistance of CSOs, FBOs, CROP agencies, development partners and the private sector, mentioned in parentheses, as appropriate to implement the following specific actions to achieve economic empowerment of all Pacific women.

a) Implement policies, legislation and gender-responsive budgets in compliance with agreed regional and international standards and conventions to: address disparities with regard to women's access and opportunities in all fields of economic activity; proactively expand opportunities for women to participate in critical sectors and industries; equally acknowledge, value and remunerate women's work in all fields.

*(Governments, private sector)*

b) Implement equitable, inclusive, accessible, resilient and gender-responsive social protection policies and programmes for all women, including those in informal work, unpaid care and domestic work, self-employed, migrant workers, and those with disabilities or affected by long-term illnesses. Social protection policies must be grounded in a human rights-based approach, and strengthened by supportive cultural practices.

*(Governments)*

c) Establish or improve regulatory frameworks and enforcement of labour laws to ensure that informal sector workers and migrant workers have decent paid work and safe workplaces.

*(Governments)*

d) Reduce barriers to women's access to credit and financial services, especially for women in the informal sector, rural women, women and girls with disabilities, GBV survivors and those residing in areas under-served by financial institutions, including in the aftermath of disasters.

*(Governments, financial institutions)*

e) Strengthen prospects for all women, including those working in informal sectors, with inclusive education and financial literacy training that can help transition women to formal employment.

*(Governments)*

f) Regulate private and public care providers to enforce minimum standards and quality of care, and protect the rights of domestic workers and caregivers.

*(Governments)*

g) Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, including through national accounts if appropriate, to address women's disproportionate contribution to this valuable societal sphere.

*(Governments)*



h) Strengthen business leadership by women through targeted business support services, incubation initiatives for women entrepreneurs, business clustering, and support opportunities for women to access leadership training and mentoring.

*(Governments, private sector, development partners)*

i) Adopt appropriate and accessible proactive measures for women's education, training and employment in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and information and communications technology, and develop pathways, including via training and mentoring, into critical industries (including leadership roles) with particular emphasis on agriculture, fisheries, and local and traditional arts and crafts.

*(Governments, private sector)*

j) Connect development efforts to sustainable livelihood opportunities by ensuring available national and regional markets for product-based development projects, and ensuring vocational training is linked to job market realities.

*(Governments, development partners, civil society)*

k) Promote partnerships to prevent GBV. Support private sector adoption of policies, procedures and evaluation to ensure an organisational culture and practice of safety in the workplace and at home.

*(Governments, private sector, civil society)*

l) Consider ratifying and applying the International Labour Organization Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), and implementing its provisions in partnership with trade unions, employers' organisations and civil society.

*(Governments, trade unions, employers' organisations, private sector and civil society)*

m) Adopt policies and measures to facilitate reasonable accommodation and flexible working hours for women, and promote the use of technology for working remotely when possible/practical. Specifically for survivors of GBV, provide support, emergency accommodation and paid leave.

*(Governments, private sector)*

n) Facilitate access to safe and efficient transport to and from places of work for women.

*(Governments, private sector)*

o) Improve the culturally sound collection, analysis and use of gender-sensitive and socially inclusive sex, age, disability- and other variable disaggregated data on economic participation and workforce composition, including in relation to critical value chains.

*(Governments)*

p) Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), so that women, young women and girls, including those with disabilities, receive comprehensive and confidential SRHR information and services that respect their culture, faith and human rights throughout their life.

*(Governments, civil society)*

q) Build and strengthen sustainable water resource management and maintenance in workplaces and communities to ensure that there is accessible, affordable, safe and secure drinking water, and gender-responsive waste management systems.

*(Governments)*

r) Ensure comprehensive maternity and parental leave that promotes equal recognition of the parenting roles of women and men, as well as safe, affordable and accessible early childhood care.

*(Governments, private sector)*

s) Establish national and regional business hub(s) to create opportunities for women, from production to accessible markets, and safeguard against national supply chain issues, market fluctuations, or disaster-related disruption.

*(Governments, private sector)*

## Priority area: Gender-based violence

11. The Conference acknowledged GBV as a continuing scourge of the Pacific, and reaffirmed that its root cause is gender inequality, unequal gender power relations, privilege and patriarchy. The Conference called on governments, with the assistance of CSOs, FBOs, CROP agencies, development partners and the private sector, mentioned in parentheses, as appropriate to implement the following specific actions to end violence against women and girls and increase support and services to survivors.
- a) Leadership at all levels must commit to promoting initiatives to end GBV, and partnerships must be strengthened between civil society and governments, including at district/provincial and town/island levels, traditional leaders, FBOs, education institutions, youth, sports and disability organisations, and communities to jointly advocate for and act to end violence in the family and society.
- b) Invest in and strengthen contextualised, evidence-based GBV prevention programmes that work with children and young people, and ensure that violence prevention is integrated into formal and informal education curricula.  
*(Governments, education institutions, development partners, civil society)*
- c) Create and support GBV prevention programmes that promote positive masculinities, respect for women and girls, and the understanding of consent with regard to sexual activity, and engage men and boys, mothers and fathers, and families.  
*(Governments, private sector, education institutions, development partners, civil society)*
- d) Create and support programmes inspired by the 'Peaceful Village' model where families, the village and community participate on a voluntary basis as anti-violence advocates.  
*(Governments, development partners, civil society)*
- e) Scale up resourcing of all GBV programmes to reflect the magnitude of the issue, and invest in responses based on a robust needs analysis.  
*(Governments, private sector, development partners)*
- f) Ensure GBV efforts have a balance of emphasis and resourcing between prevention programmes, survivor responseservices,criminaljusticesystemresponses,support for survivors, and rehabilitation efforts for perpetrators. These efforts must be clearly linked, complementary and tailored to the context.  
*(Governments, development partners)*
- g) Establish or scale up support to crisis centres, safe houses and referral networks to ensure all GBV survivors (including child survivors and survivors of incest) and at-risk women and girls (including those with disabilities) have access to protection, shelter, counselling, psycho-social support and medical services, maintenance, compensation and criminal justice processes. Ensure that survivors also have access to employment training to become financially independent.  
*(Governments, development partners, civil society)*
- h) Establish and implement standards of care for GBV survivors, including through national service delivery protocols.  
*(Governments)*
- i) Include specific provisions in domestic violence laws to ensure survivors can access essential services during emergencies through service delivery protocol pathways, and enhance safety and protection messaging during emergencies. Strengthen the capacity of first responders and all humanitarian actors to prevent violence and protect women and girls during and in the aftermath of a disaster or crisis.  
*(Governments, development partners)*
- j) Strengthen laws, definitions and criminal justice system penalties based on research and consultation, including the expansion of the definition of rape to include all its forms. Strengthenandenforcelawstoexplicitlyprohibitmaritalrape, workplace sexual harassment, online violence and abuse, and cyber-harassment.  
*(Governments)*
- k) Invest in training for health officials, counsellors, district/provincial and town/island officers, and law enforcement training for police officers and other first responders and all humanitarian actors with regard to incidents of violence against women and girls to ensure appropriate survivor-centred responses.  
*(Governments, development partners)*



l) Invest in the collection, analysis and use of safe, ethical, culturally sound and survivor-centred data, including prevalence of violence against women and administrative data, to inform legal frameworks, policies and strategies, and for assessments of emergency events. Data collectors must be well-trained and gender and disability sensitised, and respondents fully informed.

*(Governments, development partners)*

m) Support regional knowledge platforms, such as the Pacific data hub and Toksave gender portal, to encourage learning and exchange between PICTs on GBV initiatives, through visits and dialogue.

*(SPC and other CROP agencies, development partners)*



Data collection in Kiribati under the Social Citizenship Education Programme



Vanuatu education officers and HRSD country focal point with the Social Citizenship Education Teacher's Guide

## Priority area: Gender-responsive climate justice

12. Climate change and crisis represents the single greatest threat facing the well-being, security and livelihoods of Pacific peoples. Climate change and related disasters impact women, girls, and persons with disabilities disproportionately, while women's knowledge and resilience are undervalued and overlooked. The Conference called on governments, with the assistance of CSOs, FBOs, CROP agencies, development partners and the private sector, mentioned in parentheses, as appropriate to implement the following specific actions to promote gender equality alongside reducing the impacts of climate change, especially within marginalised communities.

a) Ensure a gender-responsive approach to the climate crisis that recognises women's agency, knowledge and leadership, and facilitate women's active participation in climate change decision-making platforms regionally, nationally and within communities.

*(Governments, CROP agencies, development partners)*

b) Ensure women and other marginalised groups meaningfully participate in all stages of the design and implementation of national and sectoral policies, strategies and plans relating to climate change and disaster risk management and that such policies, strategies and plans are gender-responsive and include gender indicators.

*(Governments)*

c) Recognise the value of and adopt gender-responsive and inclusive budgeting within all climate change and disaster risk management policies, strategies and plans to ensure financial support for activities and programmes that address climate change impacts on women and girls.

*(Governments)*

d) Acknowledge the link between gender equality and climate change impacts and the need to consider a human rights-based approach at the legislative, policy and programme level that is contextualised using cultural practices, norms and proverbs.

*(All entities)*

e) Recognise the value of traditional knowledge, skills and expertise – alongside scientific knowledge – and the role of indigenous, faith-based and local communities in climate action and disaster resilience.

*(All entities)*

f) Mainstream gender and social inclusion – one of the most effective approaches for building climate and disaster resilience – in responses to the climate crisis. Support governments to meet social and environmental safeguards when applying for the Green Climate Fund and other climate financing mechanisms. Ensure national women's machinery and women's organisations are partners in the implementation of climate resilience activities and provide them with appropriate levels of support for work in this regard.

*(Governments, development partners, CROP agencies, civil society)*

g) Invest in culturally responsive collection, analysis and use of gender-sensitive and socially inclusive sex-, age-, disability- and other variable disaggregated data, to enhance understanding of the gendered impacts of climate change. Support the implementation of national surveys that measure aspects of the gender–environment nexus, including training for gender data gatherers. Convene a Pacific Group on Disaster-related Statistics to share better practices on disaster-related data disaggregation, monitoring and application.

*(All entities)*

h) Invest in knowledge hubs and appropriate and accessible platforms (in indigenous and local languages, for example), including digital platforms, and particularly those that demonstrate local women-led innovation, to increase inclusion and access to and dissemination of knowledge to all Pacific women on climate change and responses.

*(Governments, development partners)*

i) Acknowledge the link between climate change, disaster risks, GBV and SRHR, and ensure all women and girls can access GBV and SRHR information and services including in times of disaster.

*(All entities)*

j) Ensure strengthened coordination and capacity building on gender and human rights, including integration in climate and disaster gender policies, through the utilisation of existing mechanisms to promote a holistic approach to addressing the gender dimensions of climate change and other crises.

*(All entities)*

k) Recognise that recovery efforts in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic present an opportunity to transform our societies and to place women, especially the most marginalised, at the heart of climate change and crisis responses and the transition to a green economy, including through ensuring the meaningful participation of women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly in the planning, design and maintenance of resilient infrastructure.

*(All entities)*

l) Use these outcomes and recommendations to inform the position of the Pacific Islands countries at the next sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, especially the 66th session dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women in relation to climate change.

*(Governments)*

m) In recognising the threat of climate change, agree to work towards national implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change gender action plan.

*(Governments, development partners and CROP agencies)*

## Monitoring progress

13. The Conference calls on all entities to work in partnership to monitor progress in the implementation of these action points on the three priority themes and cross-cutting themes, and to report on this progress at the next Triennial Conference of Women.

## Endorsed by:

- Australia
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Palau
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- United States of America
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna



# ANNEX 7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MEETINGS

Figure 1: Number of participants by gender

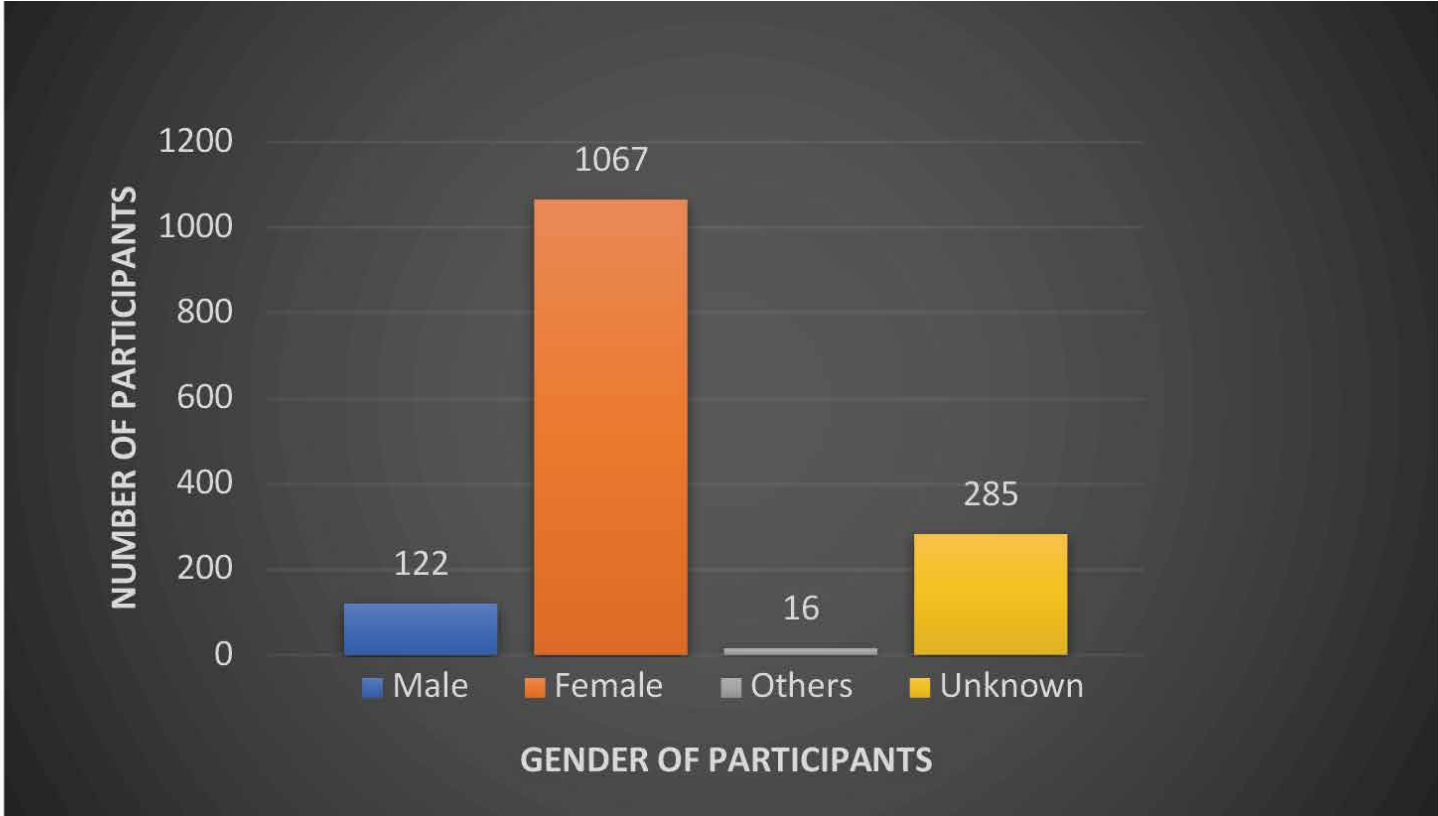
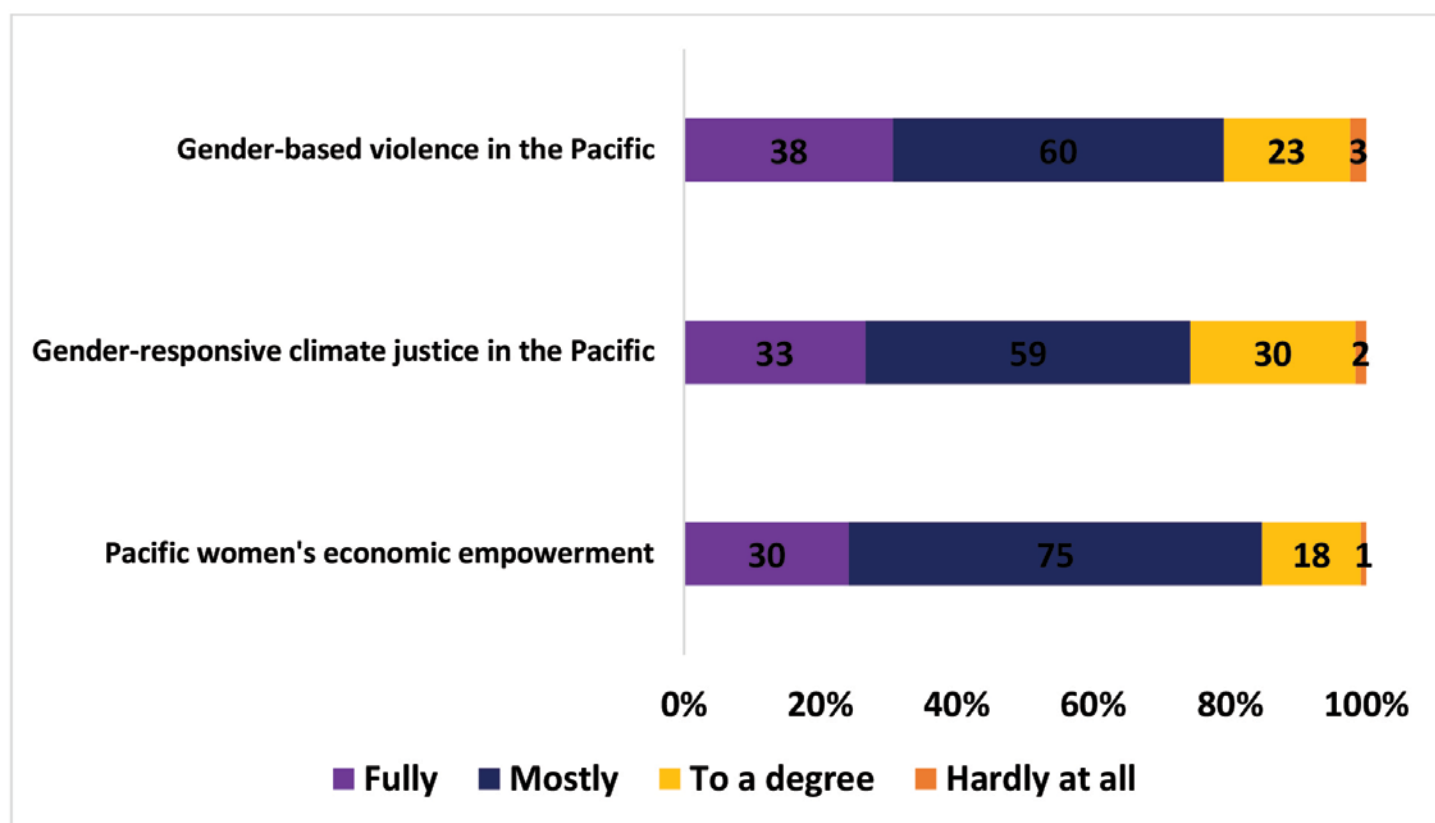


Figure 2: Conference increased knowledge



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© Pacific Community (SPC) 2021

ISBN 978-982-00-1415-2



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