



PERMANENT MISSION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by Helen Beck, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations at the Forty -Seventh Session of the Commission on Population and Development, 11 April 2014

Mr. Chairman, Thank you for giving me the floor, let me congratulate you and the Bureau on your election and assured you of our support in the leadership of our Commission. My delegation aligns with the statement issued by Bolivia on behalf of G77 and China, Cook Islands on behalf of Pacific SIDS and would like to make additional remarks in our national capacity.

We welcome the theme for this Session "Population and sustainable Development". It is timely as we look at two overarching goals of the Post 2015 Development Agenda in our view are; Preserving the health of our planet and Eradication of poverty.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the International Conference on Populations and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. As we embark on an assessment of the status of implementation of the Program of Action of on Populations and Development, we recognize the dynamics of population has changed drastically in terms of household, family, age structures and population growth. Global Populations have now grown to 7.2 billion. Inequality has also increased in terms of wealth and income; all have influenced planning for inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental concerns. Progress on MDGs remains mixed. Regional Conferences on Populations and Development have identified progress have been uneven and fragmented with new realities and challenges. Sustainable development must keep in pace with population growth. We need to put a cap top the growing global inequality in dealing with new and emerging challenges in addressing the three pillars of sustainable development.

Solomon Islands reaffirms its commitment to the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD). We have confronted various challenges in relation to the physical and mental health of women and girls. Today Solomon Islands has more than hundred doctors studying medicine in Cuba complimenting our students already studying at Universities in Fiji and Papua New Guinea. Our goal is to strengthen primary health care amongst our scattered populations to prevent maternal mortality and neonatal mortality.

Gender violence remains an issue, Solomon Islands has put in place national policies and programs in dealing with the issue addressing both the victims and the perpetrators.

Mr. Chairman, while my delegation acknowledges more than half of the global population now lives in urban areas. We must not forget the other half resides in rural areas. In the case of Solomon Islands we are talking about more than 80 per cent live in the provinces. We must connect our rural populations with essential infrastructure, renewable energy, roads, communication, wharfs and health systems; allowing our people to live a full and productive life.

One of the major challenges is dealing with climate change. The frequency and intensity of climate change is now defining and undermining sustainable development efforts, and implementation of the program of action. Last week, in my country more than twenty lives have been lost and fifty thousand impacted as a result of severe flash floods. Sea level rise continue to disempowered women and their communities as their land gets swallowed up by the sea. Increasing acidification of the ocean is threatening the livelihoods of all coastal populations globally in particular the most vulnerable.

Solomon Islands would like to see a new spirit of partnership in the post 2015 development agenda based on our shared concern for humanity's survival and work to stabilizing global temperature increase well below 1.5 degrees Celsius. There can be no sustainable development without an SDG on climate change to heal and sustain the health of the planet.

At the moment the world is heading towards a 3-5 degrees world. We must work to transform the way we live, consume energy, manage water, grow crops and travel.

We have to build resilience communities we would like to see low carbon economies with stronger renewable energy investments. Energy security opens economic opportunities, promotes gender equality, addressed economic empowerment of women, girls, youths and persons with disabilities allowing them to participate in decision making at all levels. This is economic justice for all including the most marginalized and vulnerable under the post 2015 development framework.

Coming from a country with young populations where more than half of the national population is made up of youths, we need decent job and more opportunities for our youths; we have established a national university in an effort to provide wider education opportunities for our national labour market and create a knowledge-based society.

Going forward beyond 2014, it is important to tie the various elements of the ICPD program with the means of implementation. From the Secretary General's report, a resource base of US\$21.1 billion is needed in 2015 of which two thirds will come from developing countries and one third from partners. Financing and a new spirit of partnership is critical for implementation of policies and programs on populations and development at country level in order to address vulnerable populations and areas of the ICPD where implementations have been slow. This was reaffirmed by the Panelists in their presentations in addressing further implementation of the ICPD especially for developing countries in the post 2015 development agenda on 9 April 2014. For LDCs and SIDS our special situation needs to be recognized. We continue to rely on public funds. We hope the United Nations to lead partnership by targeting drivers of the economies like renewable energy, reforestation, investments in productive sector, small holder farmers, and constructing essential infrastructure for mitigation against climate change and build resilience societies.

In closing, on the ongoing process of dealing with the outcome of this Session; it is the hope of my delegation that we should focus on areas where there is convergence and avoid long and protracted debates on areas of differences. Thank you Mr. Chairman.