



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States

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Statement by

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of the Independent State of Samoa

On Behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)

At the

57th Session of the United Nations
Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW)

United Nations Headquarters

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57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
General Discussion

Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of members of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (the Pacific SIDS) namely, Republic of Fiji, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country Samoa.

Let me begin by associating this group statement with the statement made by Fiji on behalf of G 77 and China.

Madam Chair,

Pacific SIDS thanks the Secretary General for his Gender Reports. The Pacific leaders recognize that gender violence remains unacceptably high. Two out of three women in the Pacific suffer from gender violence. We continue to look to the UN for a solution and we hope for a strong outcome from this session. It is of great importance that the UN reform works for us and that the alignment of the global UN gender nominative role carried out by the Commission, and operational activities of UN Women are effective.

At the moment the UN Women multi-country office in Fiji manages 14 countries with field presence in three countries, and one country office is in Papua New Guinea. In this regard, we hope to revisit the UN Women regional architecture when the matter comes up in UN Women Strategic discussions in the coming session.

We would like to recognize the work done by the UN Women, trying to do more with a budget of US\$6.3 million dollars for 14 countries. The total budget covers four program areas namely: One - Advancing Gender Justice, Two - Ending Violence Against Women, Three - Improving Women's Economic Empowerment and Four - Building Community Resilience in Combating Climate Change.

It is our view that more focus should be on economic empowerment and practical activities such as investing seriously in small holder farmers and productive sectors of our economies and also our infrastructure.

Madam Chair,

Climate change is increasing the vulnerability of our people. This is one of the root causes of gender violence as food and water securities places more stress on our people. In some parts of the Pacific, we already have populations being relocated from low laying islands as sea level rise and ocean acidification continue to claim our land and threaten our livelihood. Productivity and contribution of our women is continuously reduced and we need a global mechanism to guarantee their survival and halt the reduction

of women' s status as they become landless in matrilineal societies and hopeless as our traditions and culture wears thin as we migrate out of our communities. Our concern on focusing so much on Disaster Risk Management by the UN system ignores the slow onset of climate change which is more disempowering.

Madam Chair,

Another issue we have an interest in is the Post 2015 Development Agenda which is just around the corner. Three Pacific SIDS are in the SDGs Working Group. MDGs achievements on Women and Girls in the region are uneven and mixed. We welcome the proposal of having 2014 CSW 58 session to assess progress and look at **intensifying action**. **The Beijing Platform for Action will be entering into its 20 years and focusing on** means of implementation of the Barbados program of action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI)-must be part of the conversation. SDGs for us must be economically oriented, socially balanced and environmentally sensitive.

In closing for Pacific SIDS, as we look at the post 2015 Development Agenda, we welcome next year's theme " Challenges and Achievement in implementing Millennium Development Goals for women and girls" noting the central role of women in monitoring, reviewing and accessing progress of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform of Action.

Thank you Madam Chair