



53rd Commission on the Status of Women

Item 2: Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with a focus on

the shared responsibilities between men and women

Chair

I have the honour of making this statement on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum group of countries, namely Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, ~~Samo~~ ~~Salomon Islands~~ ~~Tonga~~ ~~Tuvalu~~ ~~Vanuatu~~ ~~Australia~~ ~~New Zealand~~ and

my own country Niue.

Chair,

On the occasion of the 53rd Commission on the Status of Women, the Pacific Islands Forum reiterates our commitment to the Revised Pacific Platform for Action, the Pacific Plan and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and their respective follow-up reviews, as the blueprint for achieving gender equality, development, peace and security. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the theme of this year's Commission, which is the "the

Chair

Last year, we emphasized concern over increasing rates of HIV and AIDS in our region, which impact the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights

and gender equality. We welcome the opportunity to focus on the gendered

nature of the implications of competition in the region for HIV/AIDS

most Pacific Island Countries but we recognize that more must be done in terms of implementation at national level, with supporting from the international community. Combatting gender-based violence must also remain a key priority. We would welcome enhanced assistance from the United Nations and other

partners to address this critical challenge in order to

ratification and more so the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of