



PERMANENT MISSION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by

Mrs. Helen Beck

Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands, regards to the United Nations

Fifty-Fifth Session of the Commission on Status of Women

**On the Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "Women, Gender Equality, Development and Access for the 21st Century":
Implementation of strategic objectives and actions in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives. Access and participation of all women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work**

New York, 28th February 2011

Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation congratulates you and the Bureau on your election and assures you of our cooperation. We thank the Secretary General for his reports that contribute to our discussion.

We welcome the UN Women and congratulate Maunim Mochene as the head of the Entity and assured her of our support.

We associate with statements by 277, Pacific Forum and Pacific ISDS.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2017 agenda for action will be the outcome of the 2017 Special Session of the UNGA must be linked to the overall development agenda of UN and the wider international community in addressing the theme of this session: "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, and equal access to full employment and decent work".

UN's collective voluntary commitments and the worsening of social and economic conditions experienced by women especially among the most disadvantaged communities and regions, which has become even more acute in the wake of global crisis from financial, food, energy and climate change crisis. The impact has not made the ride any smoother in addressing access to education, food, water, health, appropriate technology to make the necessary economic, social and technological transformation in the lives of women, children and many of the disadvantaged communities.

Addressing gender empowerment of women through access to education is the beginning and the gateway to decent livelihood. The problems are old but need new solutions with a new honest and genuine partnership.

Solomon Islands still face the challenges of providing education infrastructure and services to enable access to education for girls and boys. The provision of education remains a challenge for remote and rural communities due to higher costs and budget constraints. In addition, 28% of rural women and girls still do not attend primary school. The gender-gap in retention of girls in schools has increased.

As a country emerging from conflict, the diversity of cultures represented a range of gender roles in conflict resolutions and peace initiatives. Our women had played a critical role in the initial peace process.

The reason for sharing our experience is to underscore that the world's women operate in many domains as the modern world and traditional world. Solomon Islands since its political independence, has adopted a political system that does not recognize the

traditional decision-making role of women in rural societies, women's traditional roles gets subsume which further weakens the power base of women in their traditional setting.

On Governance, much attention has been paid to bridge gender participation. We have an ambitious plan for temporary measures to advance women's participation launched in 2009, however, will need more consultation.

Mr. Chairman,

On funding arrangements, work on mainstreaming gender within the wider government system is work in progress. A base line data has been established allowing for development of strategies to enhance gender equality. This includes the repeal of discriminatory old laws to address the gender gap system-wide.

Climate change and natural disasters is another challenge for my country. Natural disasters have displaced communities and caused issues of food security, tension over land resources, access to land and increased violence against women. Moreover it increased challenges for women's rights to land and property. We vector far reduction of greenhouse emission by household practices, our women and their land.

To address many of the disadvantages women and children and their right to life, need a collective approach to provide an enabling environment to access basic education. This include investment in identification of infrastructures and services, productive capacity building and economic activities to enhance women's participation in the economic sector.

We hope our discussions on development initiatives would garner the regional cooperation to facilitate women access to basic services such as education, training, health and reproductive women in addressing food security issues. Women's empowerment is a key factor in providing food security for the rural population including women and children. Agriculture remains the largest employment sector for women in many of the least developed countries.

Mr. Chairman,

For the Least developed countries the UN Fourth LDC Conference in Myanmar will have an outcome must be responsive and substantive to address the impoverish conditions of women and girls in these countries who live on less than one US dollar a day.

At all levels, genuinely address the new way for women, respect and partnership to include, targeted development investments on programs to support women entrepreneurship.

Overcoming these challenges is difficult and we hope to work with our development partners to assist us in our national efforts.

we call for a balanced role of all stakeholders including the state and the market to provide social justice for all, in ensuring access and participation of women and girls in education, and decent work.

Balance focus on state institutions and investment in the informal sector, must be given equal attention to ensure access to, tested, relevant, rural focused and community based technologies included in programs for women and girls.

Future initiatives of CSW must be comprehensive, results oriented and trigger structural transformation to enhance investment in the productive sector to target education, access to technology, agriculture, trade, human and social development, and build resilience to change in mainstreaming gender in development at all levels.

We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. As part of our effort to promote our women participation, Solomon Islands intends to submit a candidacy for the Board of UN Women for the next election.

I thank You Mr. chairman.