



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

"Elimination and Prevention of

~~Violence Against Women and Girls~~"

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of my government, I wish to express my nation's support and commitment to the Pacific Statement as it shares our common concerns and issues on this year's theme.

Violence against women and girls is a growing social and economic issue in Vanuatu. The national Prevalence Study of 2010 concluded that at least 60 percent of the women interviewed had experienced physical or sexual violence from their partners and 30 percent had experienced

The Criminal Code has been on the reform agenda for a long while, Family Law is outdated, and while the establishment of the Law Reform Commission is promising, immediate action is needed for comprehensive legislation to eliminate and prevent violence against women.

Madam Chair,

The Vanuatu Women's Centre, established in 1992; focuses on eliminating violence against women and children, provides assistance to survivors of domestic violence and advocates against violence towards women. It has 41 Committees and a national anti-violence Network which has seen an increase in the involvement and engagement of men and boys as partners in addressing violence against women and girls in their respective islands.

The Male Advocacy Program supported by the Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women is another important strategy involving men: chiefs, male leaders and youth in addressing all issues of violence against women.

Madam chair,

Vanuatu supports the call for the recognition of women's counsel and representation in the