

# SAMOA



Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honour for me to address the 57<sup>th</sup> Session on the Commission for the Status of Women in my capacity as the Minister for Women, Community & Social Development in Samoa.

At the outset, I wish to reaffirm that the Government of Samoa remains committed to the empowerment of women and girls and improving gender

realizing its ultimate goal encompassed in the vision of the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2008-2012 and 2012-2016, which is Improved Quality of Life for All.

Our advocacy and educational programs continue to be delivered in partnership with our non government organizations, our village leaders and community based networks. As a result of our outreach programs, a Men Against Violence Advocacy Group has been established. In recognition of the important role of traditional leaders in engaging men and young untitled men, the role of this group is to facilitate orientation and sensitization of our village leaders towards the need for stronger protection of women and girls from

towards mainstreaming gender across Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management initiatives. An emphasis on the economic empowerment of women