

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

11TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC WOMEN

SPC Conference Centre, Noumea, New Caledonia

16–20 August 2010

*Progress and Prospects:
National and Regional Implementation of the Pacific and Beijing
Platforms for Action*

AGENDA

Purpose: In light of the 15-year anniversary of the Pacific and Beijing Platforms for Action, the 11th Triennial Conference will focus on a detailed review of national and regional implementation of these frameworks, with an emphasis on discussing strategies and innovations for accelerating progress.

MONDAY 16 AUGUST

4:00-6:00pm Registration

6:00-7:30pm Official Opening address of the 11th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women by Fekita Utoikamanu, Deputy Director General, SPC
Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Drafting Committee
Launch of the Pacific Regional Beijing +15 report by Maria Connelley, Director, Guahan Department of Labor

7:30-9:00pm Buffet Dinner

TUESDAY 17 AUGUST

8:30-10:00 AGENDA ITEM 1

Launch of Pacific Regional Beijing +15 report

Presenter: *Treva Braun, Gender Equality Adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)*

Overview of the research and findings of the conference report “*Beijing+15: Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories*”

Country response and discussion period.

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 AGENDA ITEM 2

Mechanisms to Promote the Advancement of Women

Presenter: Treva Braun, Gender Equality Adviser, SPC

Panel: Hon. Minister O'Love Jacobsen, Minister for Health, Women's Affairs, Public Works and Niue Power Corporation, Niue; Maria Connelley, Director, Department of Labor, Guam; Maryline Kajoi, Executive Director, Office for the Development of Women, PNG; Joanne Lee Kunatuba, Gender Issues Officer, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; Gina Houng Lee, Senior Trainer, Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), SPC

The Beijing +15 report highlights the need for a fundamental shift in the national and regional architecture for gender equality. In order to see better and more sustainable results across the full range of thematic gender issues, gender equality needs to become much more deeply rooted and institutional changes must transcend sectors and allow for a more systematic multi-sectoral approach. Efforts and resources need to be significantly intensified to ensure that the necessary underlying institutions and mechanisms are in place to drive gender equality reforms.

Mechanisms that need close examination and innovation include:

- National women's machineries and systems for government mainstreaming of gender and women's human rights
- National and regional statistical systems to ensure more systematic collection, reporting and use of gender statistics
- Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)
- Regional gender equality strategy
- Regional human rights mechanism

This session will outline a series of planned and potential innovations, followed by a detailed discussion period.

12:00-1:00 *Lunch*

1:00-2:30 AGENDA ITEM 3

Women's Legal and Human Rights

Presenter: Gina Houng Lee, Senior Trainer, Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), SPC

Panel: Ruth Pokura, Director, Gender and Development Division, Cook Islands; Heimata Tang, Officer in Charge of Gender Equality, Délégation à la Famille et à la Condition Feminine, French Polynesia; Marilyn Tahi, Coordinator, Vanuatu Women's Centre, Vanuatu; Teretia Tokam, Kiribati Women's Activist Network, Kiribati

The use of CEDAW as a catalyst for change has contributed to the passing of progressive family law and violence against women legislation. However, as noted in the Beijing +15 report, legislative and policy making achievements have been limited largely because the overwhelmingly male dominated parliaments do not pass

legislation promoting gender equality or resource policies for women's empowerment.

Violence against women (VAW) is a significant long term threat to the economic, social and cultural well-being and security of Pacific Island countries. Significant leverage can be gained by using the 2009 commitment of Forum Island Leaders to eradicate sexual and gender based violence and to ensure that all individuals have equal protection of the law and access to justice.

Collaboration and partnership are critical to addressing these multifaceted problems.

The session will discuss:

- Examples of key gains achieved by ratifying, reporting on and implementing CEDAW, and how they can be emulated and expanded
- How to ensure appropriate resources are included in national plans to eliminate VAW
- How to promote and achieve integrated and comprehensive VAW legislation
- How to learn from and accelerate progress on initiatives to increase women's participation in decision making

2:30-3:00

Break

3:00-4:30

AGENDA ITEM 4

Women's Access to Services: Health

Presenter: *Dr Wame Baravilala, Reproductive Health Advisor, UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office*

Panel: *Ethel Sigimanu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youth & Children Affairs, Solomon Islands; Vaine Wichman, National Council of Women, Cook Islands; Dr Rufina Latu, World Health Organisation; Edwina Kotoisuva, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre*

Despite improvements in the availability and quality of health services generally throughout the Pacific, there is a marked variation in women's and girls' access to health care. This is the result of many factors including: cultural restriction to accessing health care from male doctors and nurses; partner control over women's movements; the costs associated with travel to a facility and consultation, drugs and others; and, culturally perpetuated poor health-seeking behaviour of women.

In general government-run health services spend a disproportionate amount of the health budget on hospital and curative services. Preventative services, including screening for cancers, non-communicable diseases, STIs and other conditions either do not exist or are very poorly resourced. Often, funding of sexual and reproductive health services, including voluntary family planning services, is left to development partners as it is not considered a sufficiently high priority, again reflecting the general low status of women in Pacific cultures.

All countries need to increase their percentage of gross domestic product on health to 10-15 percent of which a significant proportion should be spent on preventative services including sexual and reproductive health.

WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST

8:30-10:00 AGENDA ITEM 5

Economic Empowerment of Women

Presenter: Dr. Yvonne Underhill-Sen, Director, Centre for Development Studies, University of Auckland on behalf of UNIFEM

Panel: Dorosday Kenneth, Director of Justice and Community Affairs, Vanuatu; Hine-Wai Loose, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand; Louisa Apelu, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Samoa; International Finance Corporation (TBC);

Women's existing and potential contribution to the formal and informal economy in the Pacific should not be underestimated. Recent research shows that there are a number of barriers to women's participation in both the formal and informal economies.

This session will outline these barriers and provide steps which include case studies towards increasing women's economic empowerment in the Pacific. The proposed steps and action plans will focus on improving women in both the formal and informal economy:

- Access to justice and the rule of law
- Property rights
- Labour rights
- Rights to Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship

Strategies and openings for getting these issues onto the high level regional economic agenda and related forums will be discussed.

10:00-10:30 Group photo and *Break*

10:30-11:00 AGENDA ITEM 6

Overview of working group format to facilitate discussions on national and regional strategies for accelerating progress

Presenter: Linda Petersen, Manager, Human Development Programme, SPC

For the rest of the meeting, the plenary will be asked to divide up into working groups that will address specific questions related to the four thematic sessions above, with the aim of further considering and developing concrete strategies and outcomes that will help the region move forward in these areas. The six working groups will be:

1. Mechanisms to promote advancement of women
2. CEDAW and legislative reform
3. Public life and decision making
4. Violence against women
5. Health
6. Economic Empowerment

In this session, the process, structure, anticipated outcomes and guiding documents of the working groups will be outlined.

Each working group will have two opportunities for group discussion and feedback from the plenary. **Working Group Session A** is the first working group session in which each group will address a list of specific questions. Each group will then have the opportunity to present their findings to the plenary for feedback and discussion. In their second working group session (**Working Group Session B**), each working group will then have the opportunity to finalise the outcomes based on the feedback and discussion from plenary. A final presentation back to the plenary will then be given.

11:00-12:00 AGENDA ITEM 6a
Sustainable Financing of SPC: Ensuring gender equality priorities are adequately prioritised and resourced
Jimmie Rodgers, Director General, SPC

SPC is currently undergoing a process aimed at ensuring sustainable financing of its core business. This session will summarise the process and anticipated outcomes, and explain to gender equality representatives from across the region what is needed to ensure proper resourcing of the gender equality priorities of SPC member country and territory as part of SPC's core mandate.

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:30 AGENDA ITEM 6b
Working Group Session A

2:30-3:00 Break

3:00-5:00 **Presentation and discussion of preliminary results of Working Group Session A**

Each working group presents its preliminary results with opportunity for discussion and feedback from the plenary.

THURSDAY 19 AUGUST

8:30-10:00 **Presentation and discussion of preliminary results of Working Group Session A (cont'd)**

10:00-10:30 Break

- 10:30-12:00 AGENDA ITEM 6c
Working Group Session B
The same working groups reconvene to finalise their strategy discussions and outcomes.
- 12:00-1:00 *Lunch*
- 1:00-2:30 **Presentation and discussion of final results of Working Group Session B**
- 2:30-3:00 *Break*
- 3:00-4:30 **Presentation and discussion of final results of Working Group Session B (cont'd)**

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST

- 8:30-10:00 AGENDA ITEM 7
Review and discussion of composite outcomes from the working groups and next steps
- 10:00-10:30 *Break*
- 10:30-11:00 AGENDA ITEM 8
Adoption of outcomes and next steps
- 11:00-11:30 **Open floor**

This session will provide an opportunity for any final thoughts or observations anyone wants to raise.
- 11:30-12:00 **Closing remarks**
William Parr, Director, Social Resources Division, SPC

LIST OF SIDE EVENTS

Below is a list of side events that will be held during the Conference. There are three simultaneous side events per evening on Tuesday 17 August, Wednesday 18 August and Thursday 19 August. Each side event runs from **5:30 – 7pm**. Locations will be advised during the Conference.

Delegates will be asked to select and register for the **Tuesday side events** as part of the Conference registration process on Monday 16 August (4-6pm). For Wednesday and Thursday side events, delegates are expected to register before 2pm the day before on the information board in the Conference hall.

Date	No.	Topic	Organiser(s)
Tuesday 17th August	1	Women and Higher Education in the Pacific	Universities of Guam, PNG and the South

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Date	No.	Topic	Organiser(s)
			Pacific
	2	SPC Gender Mainstreaming Stocktake: Implementation Planning	SPC/HDP, six stocktake countries (RMI, FSM, PNG, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tonga)
	3	UNITE Campaign in the Pacific	UNIFEM on behalf of the UN Gender Group
Wednesday 18th August	4	Violence against women surveys: Experiences so far	Governments of Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Samoa, UNFPA
	5	SIS Catalytic Fund for Gender Equality	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
	6	Gender and the Environment: Disaster Preparedness and Response; Climate Change mitigation; and Human Security	IASC, UNDP Pacific Centre, SPC/GTZ and partners
Thursday 19th August	7	Advocating and Campaigning for Gender Equality Laws: Lessons learnt	Fiji Women's Rights Movement, SPC/RRRT
	8	UNSCR 1325: Regional and National Action Plans; and Twinning for Women, Peace and Security.	FemLINKPACIFIC/UN Civil Society Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security
	9	Integrating gender into SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Programme	SPC/FAME