Thirteenth Triennial Conference of Pacific Women &
Sixth Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women

Provisional Agenda

Monday 2 October
8:30am – 3:00pm: Pre-Conference Consultation on the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights
4:00pm – 8:30pm: Official Opening Ceremony of the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women & 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women

Tuesday 3 October
8:30am – 5:00pm: 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women
5:00pm – 7:30pm: Side event – Women's Economic Empowerment, climate change and disaster resilience. Practical ways forward

Wednesday 4 October
8:30am – 5:00pm: 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women
6:00pm – 8:30pm: Opening of the Ministerial Segment - 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women

Thursday 5 October
8:30am – 5:00pm: 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women
Official Closing of the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women

Friday 6 October
8:30am – 1:00pm Gender and Development Partners Meeting
8:30am – 4:30pm Preparatory Session for the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

This initiative is implemented with the support of

[Logos: Australian Aid, Pacific Aid]
1. The theme of the conference and Ministerial meeting is the economic empowerment of Pacific women with the objective to identify strategic measures and make recommendations to support the economic empowerment and wellbeing of Pacific women. The theme encompasses employment in the formal and informal sectors; unpaid care work; social protection; impacts of macroeconomic policies; budgeting and financing for gender equality and women’s human rights. The purpose of the Conference is to share experience, reflect on progress and challenges, and identify strategic and practical measures to accelerate progress towards women’s economic empowerment at national and regional levels. The conference is an opportunity to consider how the revised Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights (PPA) and the proposed strategic objectives namely research and data, gender mainstreaming processes, partnerships, sustained investments, and accountability could accelerate efforts to promote gender equality, including the economic empowerment of Pacific women.

2. The 13th triennial conference of Pacific Women will be held on 2, 3 and 4 of October 2017. The conference is a unique space to share and learn from countries’ and territories’ experience to support women’s economic empowerment and wellbeing and strengthen partnerships between representatives of government institutions, civil society organisations, academics, private sector, and development partners.

3. The 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women will start on the evening of the 4th of October and conclude on 5th of October 2017. The Ministerial meeting is a continuation of the Conference where discussion on government positions and agreement on the Conference’s recommendations and strategic actions will take place. Ministers will discuss the structural barriers they face within government to progress women’s economic empowerment and identify appropriate strategic interventions to address these.

4. The Ministerial meeting also offers the opportunity to obtain regional agreement and adoption of the revised Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women’s Human rights, which proposes measures to accelerate regional and national commitments to gender equality including the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration.

Negotiation of the recommendations of the outcomes document

5. During the Conference, delegates will negotiate the Outcomes Document, focusing on strategic and practical measures to accelerate progress towards women’s economic empowerment, among other issues, which will be officially endorsed at the subsequent Minister’s meeting. The negotiation process will establish regional agreement and a shared platform on key gender equality issues to be presented across other meetings of Ministers and senior government officials and associated processes, (such as the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting), as well as global meetings and negotiations.

The proposed organisation of work of the Conference

6. The two and a half day Conference of Pacific Women includes a mix of interactive dialogues, roundtable discussions, parallel sessions, and the negotiation of the recommendations of the outcomes document.

7. The one and half day Ministerial meeting begins with a high level dialogue comprising Pacific Island leaders who will share their views how women’s economic empowerment and gender equality builds resilience and achieve sustainable development for Pacific communities.
At the 5th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in October 2013, the Ministers recommended the review of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (RPPA). The revised Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights (PPA) will be the object of this pre-conference consultation prior to being presented to the Ministers for endorsement.

**MONDAY 2 OCTOBER**

**Location:** Main Conference Room

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome and presentation of the objectives of the consultation</td>
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| 9:00 am – 10:30 am | 1. Opening Remarks  
Dr Audrey Aumua, Deputy Director General, Pacific Community |
| 9:00 am – 10:30 am | 2. Overview of Gender equality in the Pacific islands countries and territories and regional commitments to gender equality  
Session Outcome: The participants will have enhanced knowledge on the status of gender equality in the Pacific islands countries and territories; and the regional instruments on gender equality such as the PPA, RPPA, and PLGED that PICTs have endorsed.  
Presenter: Kim Robertson, Gender Statistics Advisor, Pacific Community |
| 10:30 am – 11:00 am | Morning tea |
| 11:00 am – 11:30 am | 3. Presentation of the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights (PPA)  
Session Outcome: Participants will have familiarised themselves with the PPA.  
Presenter: Brigitte Leduc, Gender Equality Advisor, Pacific Community |
| 11:30 am – 1:00 pm | 4. Group work on accelerating and measuring progress towards gender equality and women's human rights  
Session Outcome: Participants will have expressed their views on the direction and content of the revised Pacific Platform for Action, which aims at accelerating progress towards gender equality (format: market place)  
Moderator: Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme, Pacific Community |
| 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm | Lunch |
| 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | 5. Summary and recommendations for the revised PPA  
Session Outcome: an agreement on the content of the revised PPA that will be submitted to Ministers for endorsement.  
Moderator: Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme, Pacific Community |
In light of global, regional and national commitments to support Pacific women’s economic empowerment, the Conference will discuss challenges and share experiences towards advancing the economic empowerment of Pacific women with the purpose of identifying strategic and innovative measures to accelerate progress.

**MONDAY 2 OCTOBER**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>5:30 – 6:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Welcome address by SPC Director General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Key note address: Her Excellency, Dr Hilda Heine, President of Republic of the Marshall Islands</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Agenda ITEM 1</strong></td>
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<td>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</td>
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<td>Adoption of the Agenda</td>
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<td>6:30 – 7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Opening Panel Discussion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Panellists:</strong></td>
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<td>2. Macroeconomic measures to support women’s economic empowerment. Armelle Merceron, Member of the Territorial Assembly, French Polynesia.</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji</td>
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<td><strong>Session outcome:</strong> This panel discussion aims to set the tone for and provide the context for the discussions throughout the week. At the end of the session, the different aspects of women’s economic empowerment would have been explored and this will help guide the discussions and dialogue during the Conference.</td>
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<td><strong>Location:</strong> Main Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 9:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Welcome Dinner hosted by the Government of the Republic of Fiji</strong></td>
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8:30 – 10:00 am  

**Agenda ITEM 2: Regional overview on enabling factors and barriers to Pacific women’s economic empowerment**

This session will provide a regional overview of women’s economic empowerment in the Pacific including reflection on the commitments made globally and regionally by Pacific governments; the status of women in the informal and formal sectors of employment and entrepreneurship in the Pacific, the barriers and drivers for women’s economic empowerment; and makes recommendations to accelerate progress in women’s economic empowerment in the context of the revised Pacific Platform for Action for gender equality and women’s human rights (PPA). The purpose of this regional overview is to guide the discussions throughout the Conference and Ministerial Meeting.

**Session outcome:** An analysis of factors enabling and constraining women’s economic empowerment in the Pacific islands countries and territories will support delegates’ deliberations on strategic approach and measures to accelerate progress.

**Presenter:** Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago - Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme, Pacific Community

Presentation of the regional overview including a situation analysis of women’s economic empowerment and recommendations to accelerate progress in this area.

**Country response and discussion period**

Location: Main Conference Room

10:30 – 12:00 pm  

**Agenda ITEM 3: Opportunities and challenges for Pacific women for formal and informal employment and business development – Panel discussion**

This session will explore the opportunities and challenges to women’s employment and business development by sharing experiences across the region to promote and support women’s economic empowerment.

**Session outcome:** Concrete measures are identified to expand economic opportunities for women.

**Panellists:**

3. Promoting women’s economic empowerment: whose business is this? Naea Beth Onesemo Tualaepa, CEO, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. Samoa.
4. The social and economic value of cultural industries. Masei Manahaapai Larissa, Union des Femmes Francophone d’Océanie. Wallis and Futuna.

**Moderator:** Preeya Ieli, UN Women

**Country response and discussion period**

Location: Main Conference Room
12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 pm
Parallel sessions / experience sharing
The parallel sessions provide opportunities to learn about different perspectives on work undertaken to promote the economic empowerment of women in the Pacific. These sessions provide a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned to inform the planning and potential programmes and activities that delegates can pursue in their country.

Session outcome: Sharing of experience from across the region and agreement on ways forward to effectively support women’s economic empowerment and progress regional agenda for gender equality.

1) Economic Empowerment: From Research to Evidence to Action. Organised by Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development and the Pacific Community
Location: Main Conference Room, with simultaneous interpretation

2) Telling our stories: Socio-economic impacts of violence and discrimination against Pacific LBT women and gender non-conforming people, and strategies for change. Organised by Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network, Diverse Voices for Action and Equality and the SPC -Regional Rights Resources Team
Location: Meeting room A

3) Pacific Women in Agriculture. Organised by the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisations network (PIFON), PNG Women in agriculture development foundation, Australian Women in Agriculture
Location: Meeting room B

4) Markets for Change – Addressing the intersectional and complex barriers women face in advancing women’s economic empowerment in the informal sector. Organised by UN Women
Location: Meeting room C

3:30 – 5:00 pm
Negotiation of the Outcomes Document
Session Outcome: Agreement on priorities and measures to implement at the country and regional level to effectively support women’s economic empowerment.
Location: Main Conference Room

Parallel sessions / experience sharing
Session Outcome: Sharing of experience from across the region and agreement on ways forward to effectively support women’s economic empowerment and progress regional agenda for gender equality.

5) Propositions for transformative financing of women’s human rights in the Pacific. Organised by We Rise Coalition, Fiji Women’s Fund, Global Fund for Women and FRIDA
Location: Meeting room A

6) Opportunities and challenges to balancing the economic empowerment of women in the fisheries sector with environmental sustainability. Organised by Women and Fisheries Network
Location: Meeting room B

7) Tell us what works! Supporting women’s economic empowerment in the context of projects for sustainable development: SPC’s experience. Organised by the Pacific Secretariat
Location: Meeting room C
Evening side event: Pacific Women’s Economic Empowerment, climate change and disaster resilience: Practical ways forward. Organised by Pacific Community, UN Women, Diverse Voices for Action

Location: Main Conference Room

Cocktail and dinner

WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER

8:30 – 10:00 am

**Agenda ITEM 4: Obstacles and enabling environment for women’s economic empowerment**

Women’s economic empowerment is more than increasing opportunities to work and employment, although this is an important component. Women face structural, social and cultural obstacles that deprive them of equal opportunities to employment and income generation including gender roles, norms and stereotypes. Obstacles are reinforced implicitly or explicitly in legislation, regulations and policies, and also in the enforcement of these legislations and policies.

During this session, participants will reflect on issues hindering the economic empowerment of women; such as the burden of unpaid care work, limited social protection, and the adverse impacts of macroeconomic policies and workplace environments; as well as learning from experiences across the region towards removing and eliminating these obstacles.

**Session Outcome:** The discussion of the impacts of the social and institutional context on women’s economic empowerment will identify a range of concrete measures to implement at the national and the regional level to shape social and economic policies that work for women.

**Panellists:**

1. Getting organised to influence decisions that work for women in the market. Leisavi Joel, Empowering women vendors, Vanuatu.
2. The motivations for promoting gender equality in an enterprise. Grace Campbell, Human resources manager, Solomon Breweries Ltd.
3. Creating an enabling environment for the empowerment women in the public service. Secretary, Department for Personnel Management, John Kali, Papua New Guinea.
4. Adopting labour policies to protect women’s rights in the labour force, Dr Shirley A. Mabini, Director of Labour, Guam Department of Labour, Women’s Affairs. Guam.
5. Macroeconomic policies are not neutral – how they affect women, Dr Claire Slatter, University of South Pacific. Fiji.

**Moderator:** Dr Yvonne Underhill, Associate Professor, University of Auckland.

**Country response and discussion period**

Location: Main Conference Room

10:30 – 12:00 pm

**Agenda ITEM 5: Investing in women’s economic empowerment**

This session will discuss different funding modalities for supporting women’s economic empowerment. Representatives of governments, development partners, and financial institutions will present their programmes and financial strategies.
Session Outcome: Identification of financing modalities for women’s economic empowerment and strategic approaches to increase investment in PICTs for women’s economic empowerment and, more broadly, on gender equality.

Panellists:

1. Solidarity Bank to support rural women. Astrid Gopoea, Chief of Staff for the Minister in charge of Direction de la Culture, de la Condition féminine et de la Citoyenneté. New Caledonia.

2. Financial services that works for women. Dr Alice Pollard, Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme. Solomon Islands.

3. Why the Global Funds for Women was established and how does it support women’s economic empowerment. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, co-chair of the board of Global Fund for Women.

4. Australia’s investments in women’s economic empowerment. Dr Sharman Stone, Australia Ambassador for Women and Girls. Australia.

Moderator: Yoshiko Yamaguchi, Pacific Young Women Leadership Alliance

Country response and discussion period

Location: Main Conference Room

12:00 – 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 pm  Parallel sessions / experience sharing

The following parallel sessions continues the sharing of experiences and perspectives on work undertaken to promote the economic empowerment of women and to advance gender equality in the Pacific.

Session Outcome: Sharing of experience from across the region and agreement on ways forward to effectively support women’s economic empowerment and progress the regional agenda for gender equality.

1) Empowering women through technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Organised by the Pacific Community

Location: Main Conference Room, with simultaneous interpretation.

2) Voice and Agency – Experiences of women leaders of Market Vendor Associations: Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu. Organised by UN Women

Location: Meeting Room A

3) The achievement of optimal reproductive health and gender equality requires the economic empowerment of women. Organised by the Medical Services Pacific (MSP)

Location: Meeting Room B

4) Addressing Family Violence in order to increase the Economic Empowerment of Women. Organised by SPC-Regional Rights Resource Team and UN Women.

Location: Meeting room C
3:30 – 5:00 pm  
**Negotiations Outcomes document**

**Location:** Main Conference Room

**Session Outcome:** Agreement on priorities and measures to implement at the *national and regional* level to effectively support women’s economic empowerment.
The purpose of the 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women is to endorse strategic measures to be implemented at the regional and national level to achieve significant progress on women’s economic empowerment as recommended by the Thirteenth Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.

### WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER

**6:00 – 6:30 pm**

Opening address by Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Pacific Community

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Opening Session**

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Adoption of the Agenda

**6:30 – 7:30 pm**

**High Level Panel – Pacific Leaders**

- Her Excellency Dr Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of Marshall Islands
- Honourable Kourabi Nenem, Vice President of Kiribati
- Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Pacific Community

Moderator: Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji

**Session Outcome:** Revitalisation of political will to progress gender equality and significantly support women’s economic empowerment

**Location:** Main Conference Room

**7:30 – 9:00 pm**

Dinner hosted by the Pacific Community

### THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER

**8:30 – 10:00 am**

**Agenda ITEM 2: Progress and challenges in implementing Regional commitments on Women’s Economic Empowerment**

A summary report on the status of regional commitments made on women’s economic empowerment will be presented to the Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women; including an overview of progress made against the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration. Following the CSO dialogue earlier this year, Forum Economic Ministers made recommendations related to the need for tailored training to enhance employability, a youth economic empowerment fund, entrepreneurship training initiatives, measuring budgetary allocations towards women’s economic empowerment and benchmarks for gender responsive budgets.

The panel discussion that will follow the presentation will provide the opportunities to reflect on the combination of measures required to develop and secure women’s productive assets, including by ensuring a social safety net.

**Session outcome:** The discussion of regional processes for progressing women’s economic empowerment and informs recommendations to accelerate implementation of regional and national commitments to support women’s economic empowerment.
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**Presenter:** Mr Sione Tekiteki, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

**Panellists:**
Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji
Honourable Nadi Glassi, Crown Minister, Cook Islands
Honourable Amenta Matthew, Minister of Internal Affairs

**Moderator:** Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Pacific Community

**Country response and discussion period**

**Location:** Main Conference Room

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### Agenda ITEM 3: Positioning gender equality and women’s human rights in the regional and global development processes

Pacific leaders have committed to the promotion of gender equality and the human rights of Pacific women. The multidimensional aspects of gender equality and women's human rights involve all sectors of development and requires a coordinated response across sectors. This session will present an opportunity for Ministers to discuss how gender equality commitments made by the countries through regional and global instruments such as the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, the Moana Declaration, and the Sustainable Development Goals, can be strategically included in regional policy dialogues in different development sectors, including in regional ministerial meetings. This session will also provide the opportunity to discuss the positioning of regional priorities in terms of gender equality and women’s human rights in the global development and climate change agenda.

**Session Outcome:** Recommendations to accelerate progress towards of gender equality across the regional development agenda through rethinking approaches to regional and international processes and associated priority setting.

**Panellists:**

1. How to position commitments to gender equality in the regional development agenda and key ministerial meetings. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
2. How the Pacific islands region can be represented in key global mechanisms promoting gender equality. Ms Aleta Miller, Representative UN Women, Pacific Office
3. The importance of the participation of PICTs in the Commission on the Status of Women. Honourable Charmaine Scotty, Minister of Internal affairs, Nauru
4. The role of Pacific CSOs in promoting the gender equality agenda at the regional and global level and the linkages between commitments related to gender equality, women’s human rights, climate and economic justice. Ms Noelene Nabulivou, Women’s Major Group, Diva for Equality, Pacific Partnership for Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

**Moderator:** Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, Director Social Development Programme, Pacific Community

**Country response, discussion period**

**Location:** Main Conference Room

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### Agenda ITEM 4: Adoption of the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights (PPA)

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At the 5th Meeting of the Ministers for Women held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in 2013, Ministers recommended the review of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (RPPA). An independent review of the RPPA conducted in 2014/2015 recommended SPC, in partnership with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and with input from all PICTs, should coordinate the development of a regional platform or plan of action for gender equality and the advancement of women. The ‘new PPA’ has been designed as an instrument to accelerate progress towards gender equality in the region, in particular commitments made through the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, and the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, and national gender policies. The 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women presents the new PPA to Ministers for women for endorsement.

Session Outcome: Endorsement of the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights and identification of strategic priorities for its implementation.

Presenter: Dr Audrey Aumua, Deputy Director General, Pacific Community

Country response, discussion period, endorsement of the PPA

Location: Main Conference Room

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Agenda ITEM 5 : Endorsement of the outcomes documents

The outcomes document of the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women reflect agreed regional priorities identified to support women’s economic empowerment and wellbeing. The outcomes document is an instrument to guide the development and implementation of policies and programmes by countries, territories, regional organisations and development partners. The 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women presents the outcomes document to Pacific Ministers for Women for discussion and endorsement.

Ministers for Women are invited to discuss ways to integrate relevant recommendations from the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in other regional meetings, such as ministers’ meetings, to more broadly progress women’s economic empowerment in the region and across a range of sectors to mobilise resources and generate action.

Session outcome: Ministers endorse the outcomes document of the Conference including recommendations for measures to support Pacific women’s economic empowerment.

Presenter: Vice Chair/ Chairperson, Drafting Committee

Country response, discussion period, and endorsement of the outcomes

Location: Main Conference Room

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Closing of the 13th triennial conference of Pacific women and the 6th meeting of the Ministers for women

- Discussion of Host and Date for next Triennial Conference and Ministerial Meeting
- Evaluation
- Remarks by Dr Sharman Stone, Ambassador for Women and Girls, on behalf of the Government of Australia
- Remarks by Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Pacific Community
- Closing Remarks by the Chairperson

Location: Main Conference Room
6:00 – 8:00 pm  Closing cocktail hosted by the Government of the Republic of Fiji

The Pacific Community is grateful for the support of the government of Australia