

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by H.E. Mr. Aisi, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States (Pacific SIDS) represented at the United Nations, namely, Fiji, whose representative has just spoken, Nauru, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Papua New Guinea.

I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and your delegation for convening this important event. I would also like to acknowledge Ms. Bachelet's presence amongst us this evening.

The Pacific SIDS are committed to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). We welcome the launch earlier this month of the Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security in Asia-Pacific by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Advisory Group will advise and support Governments, civil society and other relevant players on the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in the Asia-Pacific region. Our countries look forward to working with the members of the Group.

In order to advance the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and its related resolutions — and I would mention here, especially, resolution 1889 (2009) — in the Pacific region, it is important that we focus our work on approaches that reflect the reality of the situation on the ground in our island countries. We ask the United Nations to support the convening of a regional high-level meeting to develop and adopt a regional action plan on women and peace and security to support the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the country level. This proposal was supported in the outcome statement of the eleventh Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, convened by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in August of this year.

We consider that the development of a Pacific regional action plan to support the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) would bring women into official processes and build on our efforts to integrate resolution 1325 (2000) into the regional peace and security agenda. Moreover, a Pacific regional action plan also has the potential to bring together a series of high-level regional commitments into viable national action plans, which is essential to enhancing security sector governance policies and programmes in our region and will allow us to develop tailored solutions to the challenges that our diverse nations face. Inadequate funding remains a serious challenge to the success of the national action plans.

We also recognize the work of Pacific non-governmental and civil society organizations like FemLINKpacific in advocacy and programme efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000) and request the United Nations and other donor partners to continue to provide resources for such efforts, particularly to enhance women's participation in prevention and broader peacebuilding. We also ask the United Nations to support pre- and post-deployment training of peacekeepers in our region, both police and military, particularly to ensure the incorporation of human rights compliance.

Finally, the Pacific SIDS wish to highlight the importance of conflict prevention as an essential element of resolution 1325 (2000). Unabated climate change risks increased violent conflict in many parts of the world, and the consequent impacts on women and girls are potentially beyond the capacity of the international community to respond to adequately. Adverse impacts of climate change alter the distribution and quality of natural resources such as freshwater, arable land, coastal territory and marine resources. These changes can increase competition for available resources, weaken Government institutions and lead to internal and international migration. Further, the adverse impacts can create obstacles that substantially interfere with the ability of nations to maintain territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. All these impacts of climate change create severe risk of increased violent conflict in many parts of the world, with ensuing impacts on women and girls during and after conflict. We consider that climate change severely jeopardizes the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

So, we reiterate our call for climate change and security to be an item on the agenda of the Security Council. If the United Nations responds to the threat of climate change, it has the potential to truly prevent conflict and thereby reduce violence against women.

