

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 28, 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Kalpokas, Representative of Vanuatu

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

I wish to thank Nigeria for having convened this important debate. The Pacific SIDS are committed to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In advancing our efforts, we are pleased to announce that in December 2010, as part of the tenth anniversary commemoration of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we established the Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. The Group is an inclusive endeavour among diverse stakeholders in our region.

In order to further advance the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) 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 islands. We believe that the development of a Pacific regional action plan would assist in this regard, and would build on our efforts to integrate resolution 1325 (2000) into the wider regional peace and security agenda. A Pacific regional action plan also has the potential to channel a series of high-level regional commitments into viable national action plans, which is essential for enhancing security-sector governance policies and programmes in our region.

The Pacific is also committed to international efforts, and in this regard we welcome support for the Pacific SIDS candidate from the Solomon Islands for the Executive Board of UN-Women. We ask that the United Nations and donor partners continue to provide resources and support for our efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000), particularly those aimed at enhancing women's participation in prevention and broader peacebuilding. We asking the United Nations to support pre- and post-deployment training of peacekeepers in our region, both as police and military, particularly to ensure the incorporation of training in human rights compliance.

The Pacific SIDS wish to highlight the importance of conflict prevention as an essential element of resolution 1325 (2000). Unabated climate change raises the risk of increasing violent conflict in many parts of the world and its consequent impact on women and girls, which is potentially beyond the capacity of the international community to respond to adequately. The adverse impacts of climate change alter the distribution and quality of natural resources such as fresh water, arable land, coastal territory and marine resources. Such changes can increase the competition for available resources, weaken Government institutions and lead to internal and international migration. Furthermore, such adverse impacts can create obstacles that substantially interfere with the ability of nations to maintain their territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. All these effects of climate change can create a severe risk of increased violent conflict in many parts of the world, along with the ensuing impacts on women and girls during and after conflict.

We welcome the recent statement by the President of the Security Council on climate change and the maintenance of international peace and security (S/PRST/2011/15*). This was a landmark event, as it was the first time that the Security Council, which has primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and Security, explicitly acknowledged the link between climate change and international peace and security. It provides a solid foundation and,

indeed, an imperative for the Council to undertake further work on this critical issue. As a first step, the Pacific SIDS seek the appointment of a special representative on climate security to identify and assess threats to international peace and security resulting from the current and projected adverse impacts of climate change.