

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

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Beck, Representative of the Solomon Islands*

My delegation would like to begin by thanking Nigeria for the initiative to hold this meeting.

We also would like to begin by associating ourselves with the statement to be made by the representative of Vanuatu on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States (SIDS).

We present this statement in our national capacity. One of the six main goals of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013 (see UNW/2011/9), deals with women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response. That plan has outcomes with targets and indicators by which we can measure progress over time.

As a country emerging from conflict, we have put in place a number of peace and security initiatives. We have adopted traditional and external mechanisms. We have borrowed the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission model, which has a gender chapter to it. I am pleased to say that during its work it has accumulated data relevant to resolution 1325 (2000) that we will feed into our national policy framework when the Commission's mandate comes to a natural end next year.

Given our lack of capacity and resources, much of the work on gender in Solomon Islands is externally supported and heavily consultant-driven. That said, our homegrown faith-based gender components have been in existence for the past couple of decades. We are assisted by the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Gender equality is factored into the Mission, led by Australia and supported by New Zealand and all our Pacific neighbours. I am pleased to say that by the end of this year, RAMSI will have a new coordinator, who is a Tongan professional woman. My Government looks forward to working with her.

United Nations relations with Solomon Islands are by remote control through a regional office abroad. Our concern is that the United Nations gender-supported early warning system initiative, initiated years back, unfortunately did not grow roots nationally and went silent after completion of the project. In that regard, we have been calling for an enhanced United Nations presence in Solomon Islands to ensure that there is a permanent partnership in transferring projects within the country.

Nationally, two ministries are leading the charge in implementing resolution 1325 (2000), namely, the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace and the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs. Their work on gender goes beyond resolution 1325 (2000), as has been clarified in the concept paper (S/2011/654, annex). It covers the other resolutions, 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010).

My subregion is in a permanent state not of conflict, but rather of adapting, mitigating and addressing the various challenges of climate change and combating poverty. We are in a transitional phase of providing and improving women's access to food, water, health,

education and economic opportunities. The results have been mixed and the problems are growing. Five Pacific SIDS are classified as least developed countries (LDCs).

The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 has a gender orientation to it. It calls for investment in the productive sector within our countries, especially in infrastructure, agriculture and energy, with the ambitious goal to transform and graduate 50 per cent of LDCs by 2020.

As my colleague from Vanuatu will state later on, the Pacific SIDS are developing a regional action plan on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which will be complemented by a national action plan. On that note, Solomon Islands wishes to register its appreciation to UN-Women, which has provided financing to assist us in working on our national action plan.

My delegation is mindful of the deep gaps within resolution 1325 (2000), as it deals merely with peace and security, not development. Our reading of the resolution is that it engages women becoming agents of change in conflict prevention, management and peacebuilding, acting as fire-fighters putting out fires without looking at the causes of conflict. Peace and security, however, can be sustained by having a sustainable development context to them.

Solomon Islands is also one of the 17 members of the g-7, a small group of countries emerging from conflict and having the objective of trying to improve and reform global policies towards countries emerging from conflict, focusing more on State peacebuilding and State-building in relation to aid effectiveness. The recommendations of the group will be presented at the forthcoming High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Korea this year.

One of the root causes of conflict today is climate change. The swallowing of land due to sea-level rise is disempowering women landowners in matrilineal societies in Solomon Islands. Challenges with regard to drought, food and water are reversing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals all around the world.

Today — not tomorrow — we need the leadership of the developed countries to adopt ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gases in order to stabilize temperature increase to below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Currently, we are on a path with weak pledges on the table that will see the temperature rise to more than 5 to 7 degrees Celsius unless something drastic happens in five weeks' time in Durban, South Africa.

Once we reach that point, resolution 1325 (2000) will become irrelevant. I hope that this presentation will contribute to providing us with an early warning that will be reflected in the discussions to come.