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Fiji
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Nauru
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Palau

Papua New Guinea
Republic of Marshall Islands
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu



Samoa
Chairman of Pacific Islands Forum

Pacific Islands Forum Group

Pacific Islands Forum
United Nations Member States

**STATEMENT BY H.E. ALI'IOAIGA FETURI ELISAIA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SAMOA**

ON BEHALF OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM GROUP

**ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON
“WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY”**

New York, 27 October 2005

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Mr President

I am honored to address the Security Council on the questions of women, peace and security. In doing so, I speak on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum member states with Permanent Missions in New York namely, Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and my own country, Samoa.

Mr President

This year marks the fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women and peace and security. It is now a matter of international consensus that the role of women is fundamental to the maintenance of international peace and security. At the 2005 World Summit, our Leaders reaffirmed this understanding. Today, we would like to express our full and continuing support for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 which remains the most important and comprehensive framework for action at the international level.

We welcome the report of the Secretary General on women, peace and security. We urge the Security Council to continue and intensify its efforts to mainstream women, peace and security issues into its work. We wish briefly to highlight the most important steps that now need to be taken on the basis of the Secretary-General's report.

- First, there is a clear need for increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making in conflict prevention, management and resolution. We hope to see more women appointed to senior positions in peace operations in the future, and to see Security Council support for such progress;
- Second, the Security Council must act to protect the most vulnerable. Special attention must be paid to the specific protection needs of women and girls to prevent gender based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.

- Third, Security Council must call for the prosecution of those who commit crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls. There can be no impunity for such crimes.
- Finally, United Nations peace operations must lead by example. We wish to see greater participation by women in peacekeeping missions and increased accountability for the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations as a whole.

Mr President,

The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders welcomed the agreement reached at the World Summit to establish a Peace-building Commission. It is a matter of highest priority to us that this new body will support and promote the protection and promotion of the rights of women and build on international work on women, peace and security. We urge Security Council members to ensure a gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout the operations of the Commission.

Mr President,

The experience of Pacific Islands Forum countries in peace building efforts in our own region makes this issue of particular resonance for us. The return of peace, following recent conflicts in Bougainville, and the Solomon Islands owes much to the role of women in the affected areas. We acknowledge the efforts of these incredible women today, and we urge the Security Council to respect them by taking further action on this issue in the United Nations.

I thank you.