

Solomon Islands National Women's Summit

Honiara

10-12 October 2016

The three-day National Women's Summit brought women together from across the country for consultations on and endorsement of the draft National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security; a dialogue on the RAMSI withdrawal; and the launch of a research report on "The Influence of Gender Attitudes and Norms on Voter Preferences in Solomon Islands". The Summit was coordinated by the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs. The Summit was supported by the UN's Peacebuilding Project for Solomon Islands, administered by UNDP and UNWomen.



Participants at the National Women's Summit opening session (Photo credit: UNDP staff)

Opening

The National Women's Summit was opened by Ms Ethel Sigimanu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs. PS Sigimanu introduced the concept behind for the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP), grounded in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN SCR 1325). PS Sigimanu noted that the peacebuilding process following the ethnic tensions excluded women from peacebuilding negotiations, decision-making and reconstruction efforts, and argued that the diverse experiences of Solomon Islands women must be fully integrated into all peacebuilding, peacemaking and reform processes.

Ms Azusa Kubota, UNDP Country Manager and Head of the UN Joint Presence, addressed the Summit and highlighted that the Solomon Islands Government is a party to the UN SCR 1325, a commitment

to address the impact of conflict on women, which recognises the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management, conflict resolution, and sustainable peace.

National Action Plan Consultation

The consultation process on the draft NAP began with an exercise on definitions of major terms used throughout, such as gender, gender based violence, impunity, peace, security, peacebuilding, conflict and framework.

A workshop on 'why the focus on women?' where participants explored the limited consultation and decision-making opportunities for women, the need to change the culture of male dominance, and the unique skills and perspectives women bring to peace policy development.

Facilitators gave an overview of how the NAP will complement the National Peace Policy of Solomon Islands. Very few participants had seen the National Peace Policy, and a number of participants commented that women from all provinces must be involved in development of such policy in future.

Facilitators presented the background of CEDAW and UN SCR 1325, noting that CEDAW addresses women's needs from a human rights perspective and recommends specific entry points for assistance, while the UN SCR 1325 provides a political framework with no detailed guidance. The facilitators noted the consequential UN SC resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889, 1960) and the importance of CEDAW general recommendations (notably 30). The recommendation of the CEDAW Committee for Solomon Islands to develop a NAP on women, peace and security and associated timelines for implementation were then outlined.

A UNWomen humanitarian specialist gave an overview of the gendered impacts of conflicts and natural disasters. The specialist stressed that women have expertise and are first responders, and therefore women must be integrated into all levels of decision making regarding natural disaster and conflict response.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) consultant to the Prime Minister's Office presented on the final report recommendations of the TRC. This presentation would have been the first time many participants learned in detail the findings and recommendations of the TRC. The consultant outlined the breadth of the TRC methodology, where almost 5000 stories were collected from Guadalcanal, Malaita, Western and Choiseul provinces. The TRC found that almost half of the victims on Guadalcanal were indigenous Guales, which contradicts the supposed Bona Fide Demands from Guale militants for greater autonomy and the expulsion of non-Guales. The consultant noted that combatants were jailed for non-sexual violence related crimes, despite widespread abuses. The consultant stressed the importance of engaging women in peace, as it was women who persuaded warring parties to put down the weapons. The TRC recommended reserved seats in parliament for women.

The facilitators provided an overview of the draft NAP on women, peace and security and broke participants in to four groups, each of which would critique one pillar of the draft NAP; participation, protection, prevention, and reconciliation and recovery. The draft NAP includes objectives, outputs and activities under each pillar. Representatives of each group gave a presentation on their observations and recommendations for improvement on their draft NAP pillar. Each presentation was followed by further comments by participants on the draft NAP pillar. Most recommendations were highly constructive and demonstrated the importance of engaging women with wide experiences and from all provinces in Solomon Islands. The facilitators undertook to incorporate appropriate

comments and recommendations into the final NAP, which is due to be completed by 16 November 2016. In particular, the facilitators noted that the NAP must align with UN SCR 1325, CEDAW and with national policies, laws and plans. The facilitators will produce a simplified version of the NAP so that it can be more easily explained to people with low education. The facilitators undertook to develop indicators and baselines for monitoring and evaluation. Participants were encouraged by facilitators and Ministry staff to speak to people about the NAP, and to lobby their local politicians as it will need cabinet approval. The participants endorsed the draft NAP, with recommended amendments.

National Dialogue on RAMSI withdrawal

With the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) due to withdraw by 30 June 2017, the Summit presented an opportune occasion to brief the wide range of stakeholders on the status of the withdrawal and capacity of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). As a matter of background, the RSIPF was heavily compromised during the ethnic tensions when numerous officers stole weapons and ammunition for militants. RAMSI is a joint operation of the 15 Pacific countries, led by Australia and New Zealand, at the request of the Solomon Islands Government that began in 2003 with the objectives of stabilising the country in terms of law and order, economic governance and machinery of government. In terms of law and order transition, RAMSI's Participating Police Force (PPF) began reducing operations a number of years ago and at present only operate in an advisory capacity. The formal departure of RAMSI in mid-2017 will be followed by bilateral support from Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Quinton Devlin, RAMSI Special Coordinator (from Australia), provided an overview of the transition process and the next steps. Participants asked Mr Devlin questions on guns in communities, the procedures around re-armament of the RSIPF, provincial policing, and female community-level participation in decision making on RAMSI and RSIPF strategies. Mr Devlin answered that there are more guns in the community than we want, and that maybe the RSIPF needs another gun amnesty. Mr Devlin explained the procedures, training and technology employed to keep the RSIPF armoury secure and minimise risks. Mr Devlin outlined that the RSIPF will be increasing its presence in the provinces, and these officers will not have access to lethal weapons. Mr Devlin didn't respond directly regarding female community-level participation in RAMSI and RSIPF decision making.

Mr John Wasi, Special Secretary to the Prime Minister, stressed the need for ongoing peacebuilding, consultation and community awareness efforts to wash away the negative feelings still frustrating social cohesion in many communities. Mr Wasi noted he supports more women entering parliament and that while the issue is politically difficult, there is some support in the Solomon Islands Government. Mr Wasi was also asked about female community-level participation in decision making on RAMSI and RSIPF strategies and did not provide a direct response.

Mr Frank Prendergast, RSIPF Commissioner (from Australia), briefed participants on the RSIPF's strategies and plans regarding the RAMSI withdrawal. Mr Prendergast was asked about the new anti-corruption bill and police standards, provincial policing, fears of police, RSIPF UN peacekeepers, RSIPF re-armament, and female community-level participation in decision making on RAMSI and RSIPF strategies. Mr Prendergast noted that corruption remains a challenge in Solomon Islands, the anti-corruption bill still needs further work but that police standards are continuing to improve. Mr Prendergast detailed the cost of helicopters and the change in strategy to have more officers in provinces, with greater resources such as 'Stabicraft' for rapid response. Mr Prendergast commended the individual for expressing her honesty on fearing the police and explained the new community

policing committees to be established across the country to build trust between police and individuals, build awareness of crimes and crime prevention, and build community capacity to work with the police. On sending RSIPF officers on UN peacekeeping, Mr Prendergast commended a number of his colleagues for their foresight and efforts, as well as the UN for integrating the new officers. Mr Prendergast argued that there is a requirement for police to be armed at the international airport and when providing protection to dignitaries, and that in terms of general operations the dangers not having an armed section of the police outweigh the manageable dangers of having an armed section. Mr Prendergast stressed that the crime prevention committees are not men's business and the RSIPF is expecting a representative group to form these committees in each community. However, he did not outline what other mechanisms at more senior, strategic levels are in place for female community-level participation.

Launch of Academic Research Paper

'The Influence of Gender Attitudes and Norms on Voter Preferences in Solomon Islands' report presents recommendations for enabling change and removing political barriers to allow more effective participation for women in the political system; equipping women to operate more effectively within the current system; and developing a comprehensive strategy for women's political participation. The research was financed by the UN Women as a part of the UN Peacebuilding Project for Solomon Islands.

Participants at the National Women's Summit were highly supportive of the research. There is a desire amongst participants for the results to be shared with people in the provinces, at least in those communities where data was collected. The UN Peacebuilding Project is not in a position to commit to this at this stage but may be able to facilitate through collaboration with other project activities.

Closing

The Summit was closed by Mr Francis Kairi, Deputy Director of Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace in Malaita Province. Mr Kairi stressed the importance of changing mindsets in Solomon Islands to focus on giving life rather than receiving. Mr Kairi said there is a great lie in Solomon Islands perpetrated by those who want to dominate women, that women have limited capacity – this is false. Mr Kairi said the NAP is a framework for action, and for change action is needed from everyone.



Solomon Islands
Women, Peace and Security
National Action Plan
2017-2021

FOREWORD

The adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) is considered to be one of the most important achievements of the global women's movement and its implementation has contributed to notable successes.¹ In the decade before 2000, only 11 per cent of signed peace agreements included a reference to women; since its adoption, 27 per cent of peace agreements have included references to women.² The international community and national governments have increasingly recognized women's contributions to and critical role in post-conflict justice and accountability processes, including truth-seeking, reconciliation, and reparations for women victims of violations.³

Solomon Islands has steadily moved forward on the road to peace following our internal conflict. As a nation, we have engaged in a number of important healing processes, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and we continue to develop robust peace and security institutions. As we continually renew and develop our security and peace building institution, our commitments to women's rights must be reflected in all related policies, programs and budgets, including the resources we invest in recovery and reparation.

The Solomon Islands National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security provides a roadmap to guide progress towards key national and international commitments, including our efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, as outlined in our national GEWD Policy; our pursuit of peaceful and safe communities, as set out in our National Peace Policy and RSIPF Crime Prevention Strategy; and finally, towards national healing and reconciliation, as recommended in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report.

¹ Coomaraswamy, Radhika, *A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325*. UN Women, New York (2015).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Solomon Islands National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security was developed through a consultative and collaborative process led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, and the support of the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace, the Ministry of Police, Corrections and National Security, and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

We wish to recognize the leadership of the Permanent Secretaries of the ministries in driving the process forward, and extend appreciation to other government ministries, departments, and agencies, and to civil society organizations and individuals for their invaluable contributions throughout the process.

Special thanks to the Government of Australia, UN Women, and UNDP for the technical and financial support during the NAP development process.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
NAP	National Action Plan
GR 30	CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 30 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-conflict Situations
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SSR	Security Sector Reform
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNSCR	UN Security Council Resolution
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
OPMC	Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
MDPAC	Ministry of Development Planning & Aid Coordination
MECCDMM	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
MFAET	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
MFT	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
MJLA	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
MNURP	Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace
MPGIS	Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening
MPNSCS	Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services
MPS	Ministry of Public Service
MWYCA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
MCILI	Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration

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1 THE WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY AGENDA

In October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted a Resolution that for the first time, recognised the unique and disproportionate impacts of violent conflict on women and girls. *UN Security Council Resolution 1325* (UNSCR 1325) acknowledges the importance of women's involvement in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding processes, and the historic undervaluing of women's contributions. It calls for women's full and equal participation in maintaining security and advancing peace, and emphasises States' responsibility for ending impunity for conflict-related sexual and gender based violence, including by prosecuting those responsible for violations.

Since 2000, the Security Council has adopted seven more resolutions which reinforce and complement the provisions in UNSCR 1325 and form a *Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda*. The WPS resolutions include renewed and expanded calls to strengthen women's participation in decision-making, to end sexual violence, combat impunity and establish accountability systems, and to prioritise gender equality and women's political, social, and economic empowerment as a means of preventing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

UNSCR 1325 is firmly grounded in the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*. CEDAW forms the cornerstone of the agenda and the legal framework for upholding women's rights in conflict, post-conflict and peacebuilding contexts.

In 2013, the Women, Peace and Security agenda was further reinforced when the CEDAW Committee adopted *General Recommendation No. 30 (GR 30)*. GR 30 strengthens the WPS Resolutions through clarifying how CEDAW applies in conflict and post-conflict situations, and by outlining specific measures to ensure States comply with their obligations to protect, respect and fulfill women's human rights in such contexts. GR 30 also makes reporting on these issues a legal requirement.

Together, the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions, CEDAW and GR 30 provide a framework that requires specific actions. Solomon Islands has ratified CEDAW and is legally bound to put its provisions into practice, including taking steps to ensure equal opportunities for women in security, peacebuilding and conflict prevention contexts, and making changes to cultural and social practices that undermine gender equality.

2 THE WPS FRAMEWORK

The principles and provisions in UNSCR 1325 and the WPS Resolutions, CEDAW and its General Recommendation No. 30, set the mandate and establish the structure for Solomon Islands, and all UN Member States, to address inclusive peace and security. This structure is the basis for Solomon Islands' National Action Plan, which is described as the *four pillars*.⁴ The core elements of UNSCR 1325's four pillars are summarised below.

PARTICIPATION

This calls for measures to ensure women's equal participation and influence with men, and promotion of gender equality in peace and security decision-making processes at national, local and international levels. Requires women's active and increased engagement in peace and security processes and services, at all levels, through deliberate gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. Includes appointing more women in key roles, including police, peace mediators, and humanitarian workers, and providing support for local women's peace initiatives.

PROTECTION

Provisions in this pillar call for the full implementation of all laws that protect the rights of women and girls, during and after conflicts. It calls for special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence (GBV) in general, and sexual violence in particular, in conflict, post-conflict, transitional and humanitarian situations.

PREVENTION

This pillar focuses on improving strategies for preventing conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. It includes involving women and integrating gender considerations in security activities and conflict prevention. It emphasises preventing GBV by fighting impunity and increasing prosecutions for perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence. It also focuses on challenging discriminatory gender norms, attitudes and behaviour, including through working with men and boys.

RECOVERY AND RECONCILIATION

This pillar calls for measures to address women and girls different experiences of conflict, to recognise the capacity of women and girls to contribute to relief and recovery efforts, and to respond to women's and girls' particular needs when rebuilding and healing after conflict. It also promotes strengthening women's capacities and agency in post-conflict recovery processes.

⁴ The wording of the four pillars comes from the UN Strategic Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security, 2011-2020, http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/Strategic_Framework_2011-2020.pdf

2.1. KEY ELEMENTS OF THE WPS RESOLUTIONS

Individually and collectively, the seven WPS Resolutions that followed UNSCR 1325 reinforce and extend the WPS agenda. Key elements of these resolutions are summarised below.

RESOLUTION and YEAR ADOPTED	KEY ELEMENTS OF THE WPS RESOLUTIONS
1820 (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Recognises rape and all forms of sexual violence as weapons of war · Calls for compliance with obligations to prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence · Calls for training of security personnel to prevent and respond to sexual violence · Calls for deploying more women in peace operations
1888 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reiterates that sexual violence worsens conflict and impedes peace and security · Calls for leaders to address conflict-related sexual violence
1889 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Focuses on women's participation in peace processes and peacebuilding · Encourages commitment to implementing UNSCR 1325 · Calls for indicators to track implementation, and for comparable reporting
1960 (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reminds States to comply with international law · Calls for commitment to upholding accountability and sexual violence prevention · Asserts that ending impunity is essential for societies to recover from conflict · Encourages deployment of more women police personnel · Calls for appropriate training on SGBV for peace and security personnel · Emphasizes importance of sex-disaggregated data on the impact of conflict
2106 (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Focuses on the importance of prosecuting sexual violence to tackle impunity · Notes that prosecution and national ownership, and addressing root causes and challenging myths that sexual violence is cultural, are critical to SGBV prevention · Emphasises need for data and evidence of impact to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in peace efforts and conflict resolution · Calls for monitoring, analysis, and reporting on actions to end sexual violence
2122 (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Affirms that engaging men and boys is key to preventing violence against women · SGBV impedes women's contributions to peace, security, and development · Calls for compliance with obligations to end impunity by prosecuting perpetrators · Recognises that investigation and documentation of sexual violence is instrumental to survivors' access to justice

2242 (2015)

- Recognises and addresses obstacles to implementation of UNSCR 1325
- Calls for renewed commitment to women's participation
- Encourages capacity building for civil society organizations
- Calls for integration of women, peace, and security into national frameworks with sufficient resources for implementation

2.2. CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 30

The CEDAW Committee issued General Recommendation No. 30 in 2013. It describes the application of CEDAW to conflict and post-conflict situations. Specifically, it provides guidance to States on how to align the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security resolutions with the Convention and advancing substantive equality. A selection of key GR 30 recommendations are summarised below.^{5,6}

Thematic Issues addressed in General Recommendation No. 30 and Recommendations to Member States	
WPS Resolutions	<p>Recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure National Action Plans on WPS Security Council resolutions are compliant with CEDAW and that adequate budgets are allocated for their implementation • Ensure WPS implementation reflects a model of substantive equality and takes into account the impact of conflict and post-conflict contexts on women's rights, including conflict-related gender-based violence • Enhance collaboration with civil society working to implement women, peace and security resolutions
Conflict Prevention	<p><i>Draws on CEDAW's requirements that States focus on the prevention of conflict and ensure women's right to participate in prevention, diplomacy and mediation processes. Interventions and policies should be non-discriminatory and not reinforce gender inequalities.</i></p>
Paragraphs 29 – 38	<p>Recommendations; □</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce and support women's in/formal prevention efforts • Ensure women's participation in multi-level □prevention efforts • Establish early warning systems using □gender-related preventive actions and indicators

⁵ Adapted from the Guidebook on CEDAW General Rec. No. 30 and UNSC Resolutions and Women, Peace and Security and GR 30.

⁶ Recommendations are abridged. For the full list, refer to *General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations* CEDAW/C/GC/30 <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/GComments/CEDAW.C.CG.30.pdf>

<p>Gender-based Violence</p>	<p><i>Draws on CEDAW's provisions for the prohibition of violence against women and girls as a form of discrimination and violation of women's human rights (Arts. 1, 2, 3, 5(a)). Recognises the continuities between gender-based violence occurring before, during and after conflict, and how violence during and after conflict impacts on women's participation in public life.</i></p>
<p>Paragraphs 34 – 38</p>	<p>Recommendations; □</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit and prevent all forms of gender-based violations by State and non-State actors • Ensure access to justice, including through □gender-sensitive investigation procedures, adoption of policies and protocols for security sectors, peace keepers, and capacity development for judiciary • Collect standardised data on forms of violence in multiple areas and affecting different categories of women
<p>Participation</p>	<p><i>Draws on obligation of States to ensure women's equal representation in public and political life and at international levels (Arts. 7 & 8).</i></p>
<p>Paras 42 – 47</p>	<p>Recommendations; □</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure statutory instruments do not prohibit women's participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution • Use quotas to address the specific and multiple barriers to women's equal participation • Ensure women's civil society organisations are included in all peace initiatives • Provide leadership training to women for roles in post-conflict political processes • Third-party States to include women in senior positions in mediation and negotiation processes
<p>Security Sector Reform (SSR)</p>	<p><i>Draws on CEDAW's guarantees of non-discrimination for women and girls. Notes that lack of coordination undermines women's rights, when amnesties are granted in order to facilitate the reintegration into security sector positions of ex-combatants who have committed gender-based violations.</i></p>
<p>Paras 66-69</p>	<p>Recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake gender-sensitive and gender-responsive security sector reform that results in representative security sector institutions that address women's different security experiences and priorities; and liaise with women and women's organizations
<p>Constitutional & Electoral Reform</p>	<p><i>Draws on CEDAW's provisions that national constitutions embody the principle of equality (Arts. 1-5 (a), 15).</i></p>
<p>Paras 70 – 73</p>	<p>Recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure women's equal participation in constitution drafting processes and that legislation embodies women's human rights as provided for in CEDAW • Ensure women's equal representation in elections, including through the use of temporary special measures

<p>Access to Justice</p>	<p><i>Draws on CEDAW's provisions on equality of women before the law and the need to address all violations of women's human rights, including underlying structural sex and gender-based discrimination, in all facets of post-conflict accountability and rule of law reforms (Arts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (a), 15).</i></p>
<p><i>Paras 38 (a, b, c, f), 74 - 81</i></p>	<p>Recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit amnesties for gender-based violations • Ensure that all transitional justice mechanisms promote women's human rights, are informed by the participation of women and address gender-based violations • Ensure gender-sensitive investigation procedures and services are available to respond to violence against women and girls, and to tackle impunity for these violations • Provide for remedies tailored to women's human rights and needs, tackle stigma and discrimination, provide legal aid and specific measures that promote access to justice

3 PEACE AND SECURITY CONTEXT

A review of Solomon Islands' legacy of conflict from a gender perspective informs our vision for an inclusive, peaceful and just future, and frames the actions set out in Solomon Islands' National Action Plan. The following analysis is based on extensive consultations during the NAP development and key literature, and draws substantively from the Final Report of the Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission.⁷

3.1. THE TENSIONS

Solomon Islands experienced an internal armed conflict that lasted from late 1998 until 2003. Referred to as the ethnic 'Tensions', the crisis is estimated to have caused more than 200 deaths and displaced up to 30,000 people. Almost 10 per cent of the country's population, mostly from rural Guadalcanal and Honiara, were driven from their homes as a result of the violence.⁸ The conflict had a high toll on the economy, resulted in significant destruction of essential infrastructure, and resulted in a near collapse of many national institutions.

Conflict began with the forced displacement of thousands settlers in parts of Guadalcanal. Landowners' resentment of the influence of settlers from other islands (Malaita), and the government's lack of progress on long-standing demands were among triggers of the violence. The conflict's origins were deep-rooted, including development disparities, rapid population growth, under-educated and unemployed youth, government mismanagement and corruption, land pressures and disputes, and weak law enforcement.⁹

Throughout the period of the conflict, successive Governments were unable to provide security to citizens, one of the primary duties of the State.¹⁰ Grave human rights violations were perpetrated by all of the conflict's primary actors - militant groups, members of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), and civilians – but civilians were the majority of the victims.¹¹ Accounts of more than 5700 human rights violations, including killing, torture, kidnapping, detention, and diverse forms of sexual violence, have been documented.¹² All parties committed violations of sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, forced nakedness, and forced witness of rape or other forms of sexual violence.¹³

3.2. WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF THE CONFLICT

⁷ In February 2012, the Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission provided a five-volume Final Report to the Solomon Islands Government, but to date, the Report has not been endorsed by Parliament or officially made public. In 2013, one of the Report's editors released it to several media outlets and it is currently available to download from the Internet (<http://pacificpolicy.org/?s=trc+final+report>).

⁸ Vella, Louise, "What Will You Do with Our Stories?" *Truth and Reconciliation in the Solomon Islands*, International Journal of Conflict and Violence, Vol. 8 (1), 2014.

⁹ Liloqula, Ruth and Alice Aruhe'eta Pollard, *Understanding Conflict in Solomon Islands: A Practical Means to Peacemaking*, Australian National University State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Working Paper 00/7, 2000. Also, Bennett, Judith A., *Roots of Conflict in Solomon Islands, Though Much is Taken, Much Abides: Legacies of Tradition and Colonialism*, Australian University State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Discussion Paper 2002/5, 2002.

¹⁰ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 742

¹¹ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 743

¹² Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 736

¹³ Amnesty International, *Solomon Islands: Women Confronting Violence*, ASA 43/001/2004, London: Amnesty International, 2004, pp. 26-29.

The conflict increased vulnerability and risk for women and men; however, Solomon Islands' cultural and social norms, gender roles, and the unequal status ascribed to women had specific implications and disproportionate consequences for women. Violations experienced by women during the conflict included:

- Increased levels of violence;
- Lack of access to basic services and means of survival due to destroyed infrastructure; □
- Forced displacement that led to homelessness and extended shelter in camps, which further created conditions for increased violence and insecurity; and □
- Lack of access to justice due to deterioration of an already weakened criminal justice system.

Property violations and the destruction of productive resources, including food gardens, livestock, cooking utensils and tools, had a grave impact on women whose livelihoods were subsistence-based.¹⁴ For rural women, and urban women with market-dependent livelihoods, assets that were burned, stolen or lost due to forced relocation had a particularly severe impact on their social, food and economic security.

Spending on health dropped during the conflict and its immediate aftermath, and the quality of healthcare severely declined with the suspension of many services.¹⁵ Women had limited access to a range of health services during the conflict, including sexual and reproductive health, and support for women victims of gender based violence. Access to justice and redress were non-existent for victims and survivors, as both informal and formal justice systems were undermined by militants with disproportionate power, weapons, and disregard for traditional norms of respect.¹⁶

Sexual violence was widespread during the conflict, used as a deliberate tactic by all parties, and opportunistically in the context of the disrupted social norms and limited/absent security.¹⁷ While both women and men experienced sexual violence, the majority of victims were women.¹⁸ Women described being sexually violated for collaborating with enemies, as a form of retribution for suspicion of male relatives' spying, and as 'compensation' in exchange for militants' demands for money or goods of value. Some women and girls were forced to live with militants in sexual slavery, and some women became pregnant as a result of rape.¹⁹

Women were specific targets of gender-based violence, including rape, forced marriage and increased domestic violence.²⁰ The consequences of sexual violence and rape, including pregnancy, birth and bearing of children, contraction of sexually transmitted infections,

¹⁴ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 737

¹⁵ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 790s

¹⁶ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 587

¹⁷ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 594

¹⁸ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 737. Of the people who made statements to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on their experience of sexual violence during the Tensions, 83% were women.

¹⁹ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 606

²⁰ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 624

shame, stigmatisation and psychological trauma, have had an enduring impact on women's lives, health, safety, well being and security.²¹

The number of women who were victims of sexual violence during the conflict has not been fully or accurately assessed. Stigma, shame and cultural and religious taboos associated with being a victim of sexual violence, in addition to the trauma of the experience(s), meant that women were generally reluctant to disclose sexual violence violations to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the reported cases represent only a fraction of the total of women who were violated.²²

3.3. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS

Traditional practices and forms of reconciliation and compensation are essential to restoring peace in Solomon Islands. During the conflict, women drew on both *kastom* and Christian doctrine in performing peacemaking roles, which included invoking traditional restrictions (*tambu*) to mediate and exert pressure on militants to disarm.²³ In Honiara, women also organised to provide social, spiritual and material support to each other and to combatants. Groups such as Women for Peace, Westside Women for Peace, and Vois blong Meri provided food, prayed, held peace meetings, shared information, healed relationships, and traded produce and goods, including with women from opposing sides of the conflict, as ways of reconciling and building peace.

While some women's groups and women leaders were present at the formal reconciliation ceremonies (facilitated by Government, and by RAMSI), social and cultural gender stereotypes excluded women from taking active, public roles and their involvement was generally as observers or supporters. Primary actors in both formal and community based reconciliation events has mainly been male politicians, militants, chiefs and religious leaders.

Women's voice and substantive input was largely missing from the formal peace process and official agreements, from plans for reparations, and from the post-conflict recovery programs. Women were not participants in any formal peace negotiations, were not signatories to official agreements, and had limited influence in shaping the terms of the various settlements.

²¹ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 567

²² Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Report, Volume 3, p 589

²³ Pollard, A., Resolving Conflict in Solomon Islands: The Women for Peace Approach.

http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/worg_resolvingconflictpeaceapproach_pollard_2000_0.pdf

Peace Related Agreements Without Women's Participation	
28 June 1999	Honiara Peace Accord
12 August 1999	Panatina Agreement
15 July 1999	Marau Communiqué
13 June 1999	MOU: SIG & Guadalcanal Provincial Government
5 May 2000	Buala Peace Communiqué
12 May 2000	Auki Communiqué
15 October 2000	Townsville Peace Agreement

Women were explicitly excluded from participating in some situations, such as in the consultations leading to the Townsville Peace Agreement (TPA). Women's absence from key decision-making spaces, and the lack of a gender perspective or advocacy among the actors (SIG, the militants, third-country mediators), contributed to omissions in the agreements and gender inequitable provisions that have influenced the nature of recovery to the present day.

The TPA included a provision which stated that, on condition of the surrender of weapons, all parties to the conflict would be granted amnesty or immunity in respect of criminal and civil acts done in connection or association with the armed conflict.²⁴ This was criticised by human rights groups and members of civil society within the Solomon Islands. A second amnesty law was enacted in April 2001 which extended the time limits and personnel covered by the amnesty.

Disarmament and an end to hostilities were central concerns for both women and men in the peace negotiations, however, the TPA reflected a model of security, reintegration and redress that excluded women, did not recognise their rights, and failed to adequately provide for their protection and recovery. By not explicitly exempting sexual violence and gender-based from the amnesty provisions, the agreement also contributed to perpetuating a culture of impunity.

One of the provisions that reinforced this was the appointment of (ex)-militants in the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) as 'Special Constables', a scheme that deepened insecurity for many women. Close to 2000 un-vetted former combatants were given status as and a salary, legitimising the role that combatants played as (possible) perpetrators, and contributing to the normalisation of violence and in the post-conflict period.

In addition, the allowances for the Special Constables, as well as their substantial additional claims for compensation, were paid at the expense of delivering government services. The Government was unable to provide some health and education grants, or salaries for nurses and teachers, due to the cost of the Special Constables' demands, which were often under

²⁴ Solomon Islands Government, Townsville Peace Agreement. October 2015.

threat of violence.²⁵ The Special Constables scheme ultimately ended due to allegations of human rights abuses, corruption and effects it had in fuelling more insecurity.^{26,27}

3.4. REGIONAL ASSISTANCE MISSION TO SOLOMON ISLANDS

Following the Townsville Peace Agreement, the country entered a highly lawless and more criminalised phase of the conflict. Solomon Islands requested Australian support to restore law and order and help rebuild the machinery of government. The Pacific Islands Forum agreed to the mission, which was led and mostly funded by Australia and New Zealand and based on three pillars for recovery: machinery of government, economic governance, and law and justice. The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) began operations in mid-2003 with over 2000 police, soldiers and civilian staff from 15 Pacific countries.

Women's concerns and gender considerations were not prioritised during the early years of the mission and RAMSI was criticised for inadequately drawing on or valuing women's conflict resolution experience and roles.²⁸ Although Solomon Islands women welcomed RAMSI's arrival and the immediate effect it had on curbing lawlessness in the capital, women leaders felt marginalised in the peace-building process.²⁹

Five years after its arrival, RAMSI was still not considered to be actively promoting gender equality outcomes. It was criticised for being inaccessible to Solomon Islands women, not actively involving them, and for not improving many aspects of their lives.^{30,31,32} An Australian Foreign Relations Parliamentary Committee report outlining RAMSI's achievements from 2003 – 2009 stated, "Despite the potential and imperative for RAMSI to have been informed by UNSCR 1325, the mission did not fulfill obligations under UNSCR 1325."³³ A 2006/2007 Australian Aid Performance Report stated that "...apart from the People's Survey, there is still relatively little evidence of RAMSI tracking differential outcomes for women and men...".³⁴

In 2009, RAMSI and Solomon Islands established a Partnership Framework that set out mutually agreed objectives and milestones for RAMSI's work, and identified 'equality between men and women' as one of the underlying principles and cross-cutting themes.

²⁵ Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, p 292

²⁶ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/409581468303004515/pdf/687150WP0tf0970jectEvaluation0Final.pdf>

²⁷ <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/onairhighlights/427926>

²⁸ Higgins, K. Outside in: A Volunteer's Reflections on a Solomon Islands Community Development Program. State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Discussion Paper, 2008/3. Canberra: SSGM ANU.

²⁹ Charlesworth, Hilary. Are Women Peaceful? Reflections on the Role of Women in Peace-building. Feminist Legal Studies, 2008.

³⁰ Greener, B.K., W.J. Fish and K. Tekulu. Peacebuilding, Gender and Policing in Solomon Islands. Asia Pacific Viewpoint, Vol. 52, No. 1, April 2011.

³¹ Westendorf, Jasmine-Kim. 2013. 'Add Women and Stir': The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands and Australia's Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Australian Journal of International Affairs 67 (4): 456-74.

³² Charlesworth, Hilary. Are Women Peaceful? Reflections on the Role of Women in Peace-building. Feminist Legal Studies, 2008.

³³ Westendorf, Jasmine-Kim. 2013. "Add Women and Stir": The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands and Australia's Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325." Australian Journal of International Affairs 67 (4): 456-74.

³⁴ Annual Program Performance Report for Solomon Islands 2007–08, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canberra, September 2008.

Activities to combat violence against women and increase women's participation in government were included in its work plan, and a gender advisor was appointed to 'work across police and civilian capacity building programs' in order to 'improve the way (RAMSI) builds, monitors and reports gender within its development programs'.³⁵

In July 2013, RAMSI's military component was withdrawn and many of its development activities were transferred to development partners and/or integrated in government programs. RAMSI is currently focused on capacity building for the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

3.5. TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

In the aftermath of the Tensions, Solomon Islands has undertaken a range of transitional justice initiatives to promote accountability for conflict-related abuses and crimes, and reconciliation, including prosecutions, truth-seeking, and institutional reforms. These processes and mechanisms have, to varying degrees, excluded women.

Crimes of sexual violence contravene international law and key human rights Conventions endorsed by Solomon Islands. Such crimes also contravene common law in Solomon Islands, which deems rape and attempted rape (section 136-138), abduction with intent to marry or have sexual intercourse (section 139), and indecent assault (section 141), as punishable crimes in the Penal Code.³⁶

The early years of the RAMSI intervention focused on law and order, without a focus on gender responsive approaches. The prosecution of offenses that occurred during the Tension period, known as the 'Tension Trials', began in 2005, and are near to completion.³⁷ While many offenses that occurred during the conflict were sexual and gender-based violations, there have been no prosecutions of sexual crimes that occurred during the Tension period.³⁸ A High Court Justice in Solomon Islands who worked on the Tension Trials from 2012 observed, "Victims of sexual offences and family violence have been let down by the courts, let down by the police, let down by the prosecution and let down by the defence bar".³⁹

The United Nations indicated concerns about access to reparations and justice for women victims of violence during the Tensions, and about the absence of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators.⁴⁰ In its *Concluding Observations on the Combined Initial to Third Periodic Reports of Solomon Islands*, the CEDAW Committee recommended that effective

³⁵ Greener, B.K., W.J. Fish and K. Tekulu. Peacebuilding, Gender and Policing in Solomon Islands. Asia Pacific Viewpoint, Vol. 52, No. 1, April 2011.

³⁶ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, p 589

³⁷ Fraenkel, Jon, Joni Madraiwiwi & Henry Okole. The RAMSI Decade: A Review of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, 2003-2013. 2014. Report commissioned by Solomon Islands Government and Pacific Islands Forum. Honiara.

³⁸ Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, p 323

³⁹ Observations and Experiences in Delivering Justice in Solomon Islands - Speech by Justice Stephen Pallaras QC at the Regional Human Rights and the Law Consultation, Auckland, NZ, July 2015. <http://rrrt.spc.int/publications-media/featured-articles/item/693-observations-and-experiences-in-delivering-justice-in-solomon-islands>

⁴⁰ United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Concluding Observations on the Combined Initial to Third Periodic Reports of Solomon Islands. CEDAW/C/SLB/CO/1-3

remedies be provided to women victims of violence during the Tensions, and that these respect international principles and standards of administration of justice and reparations.⁴¹ It further recommended that Solomon Islands provide human, financial and technical resources to the High Court to address cases of violence against women during the Tensions, to actively discourage the use of mediation in cases of violence, and to monitor compensation and settlements under its customary justice system.⁴²

3.6. THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

From about 2000, civil society and church groups called for establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to promote national unity by investigating and reporting on human rights violations.

In August 2008, the Solomon Islands' Parliament passed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act. The TRC began operations in January 2010 and concluded operations in January 2012. Five Commissioners were selected for the TRC, among them two women - a Solomon Islander and an international human rights expert (Peruvian) nominated by the United Nations Human Rights Office.

The TRC recognised the imperative to address gender-specific violations, and sexual violence was explicitly included in its mandate to ensure thorough investigation. The purpose of the TRC was to:

- *Examine human rights violations* and abuses that occurred between 1 January 1998 and 23 July 2003,
- Promote reconciliation by providing *opportunities for victims to provide accounts of human rights violations*, and perpetrators to relate their experiences, with special attention given to sexual abuses and to the experiences of children; □
- Help to *restore the dignity of victims and making recommendations concerning reforms and other measures*, with the objective of providing an impartial historical record; helping to prevent the repetition of the □ violations and abuses; addressing impunity; responding to the needs of victims; and promoting healing and reconciliation.

In order to ensure an inclusive history that recognised women's experience, the TRC sought to integrate gender perspectives in its approaches and include women in its processes by:

- Engaging women as TRC statement-takers and fieldworkers⁴³
- Collecting at least 50% of total statements from women
- Including gender-specific crimes in the statement-taking forms
- Investigating the distinct experiences of women and discussing these in a discrete chapter and case study in the final Report

⁴¹ *ibid.*

⁴² http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=CEDAW/C/SLB/1

⁴³ The TRC Report notes that 30 short-term statement-takers (14 women and 16 men) were trained. Report data also indicates an additional 50 short-term fieldworkers, with data on their gender not available.

- Integrating a gender perspective throughout the Report and in the *Recommendations* for reparations and reform

The gender-sensitive goals were commendable in their intent and the TRC was able to deliver on many of them. It engaged and trained 14 female statement takers (out of 30), and specifically encouraged them to collect statements from women. These statement takers gathered 2,362 statements on human rights violations, 37% from women and 63% from men. In conducting field research for the women's chapter of the TRC Report, the TRC undertook a further 100 interviews and 11 focus groups with women leaders in villages and towns.

There was reluctance by both women and men to participate in the statement-taking process, in part due to insufficient communications and awareness with communities to help them understand the Truth and Reconciliation process. For women victims, there were also substantial practical obstacles to participation – time, transport, household and productive responsibilities – which were compounded by fears of reprisals, shame, or demands for compensation.⁴⁴ Disparate levels of understanding and knowledge of women's human rights also meant that in some contexts, there were gaps between indigenous perceptions of violations and gender justice, and international human rights standards.⁴⁵

The TRC conducted a total of 17 Hearings; eleven **Public Hearings** and six **Closed Hearings**, involving 344 people (78% men and 22% women). Women comprised about 30% of the participants at the six *regional* Public Hearings, which were convened in Honiara, Malaita, Guadalcanal, Western, Central, and Eastern Provinces. Five *thematic* public hearings were convened for ex-combatants (x 2), women, leaders, and youth. An additional six closed hearings were held with 102 people; 100 men and 2 women.

The TRC did not reach its gender balance targets in either the statements or the Hearings. The quality and/or extent of women's contributions in the mixed gender hearings has not been assessed, but women's testimony may have been marginalised, and women may not have been able to offer independent views, or to put forward conflicting ones.

Comprehensive national consultations, particularly involving those affected by human rights violations, are recognised as a critical element of transitional justice.⁴⁶ An international NGO supported women leaders from around Solomon Islands to gather for provincial workshops and a national workshop in Honiara, which was attended by approximately 60 women. This resulted in the production of a 'women's submission', called *Herem Kam: Stori Blong Mifala Olketa Mere*, which was sent to the TRC and incorporated in its findings and recommendations.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 3, p 560

⁴⁵ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 3, p 559

⁴⁶ Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice. United Nations, 2010. https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/TJ_Guidance_Note_March_2010FINAL.pdf

⁴⁷ Supported through the In he International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

As with other aspects of women's involvement in the peace process, there was wide variation in the resources invested in women's participation in the TRC, compared to men's. Based on the available data for the gender specific thematic hearings, two ex-combatant hearings cost a total \$342,000 SBD, compared to \$28,500 SBD spent on convening the women's hearing.⁴⁸

The Truth and Reconciliation Act includes the mandate for the TRC Report. It states that the Report be tabled in Parliament, made available to the public, and as far as practicable, that its Recommendations be implemented by government. The Report has been provided to government, but has not yet been tabled. In 2016, the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC) and the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) began reviewing the Report's Recommendations with the intention that it will establish an implementation framework for addressing them.

3.7. REPARATIONS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Solomon Islands failed in its duty to protect women and men during the conflict. The obligation to offer adequate reparations was recognised by the government, including in the Townsville Peace Agreement.⁴⁹ Over the conflict period to the present day, millions of dollars have been paid in compensation, mainly for the loss of property and business.

The government did not define categories of human rights violations or develop policies to ensure payments were consistent and fair.⁵⁰ Throughout the early years of the conflict period, the process was *ad hoc* and subject to the dangerous circumstances and the lawlessness of the times, often including violence or the threat of violence. The result was corruption, misappropriation and abuse of a significant portion of the funds earmarked for compensation.⁵¹ A sound policy that recognises human rights, including women's rights, and an equitable oversight mechanism for the classification and governance of conflict-related compensation claims has still not been developed.

While some victims were compensated, a greater number were not, and reparations disproportionately benefitted politicians, militants, police officers, business people, and those with connections to the Government. As recently as 2015, payments of \$3,000,000 SBD were paid to ex-combatants, who claimed reparations on the basis of the provisions in the Townsville Peace Agreement.⁵²

The overwhelming majority of displaced people, those in rural area with little influence, and most women, did not receive compensation.⁵³ Based on the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace lists compiled by the TRC, women comprised only about 9% of

⁴⁸ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 5, p 1212

⁴⁹ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, p 298 and Vol. 3, p 743

⁵⁰ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, p 299

⁵¹ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, p 300

⁵² National Apology Speech By The Prime Minister. July 2010 <http://pmpressecretariat.com/2016/07/05/full-national-apology-speech-prime-minister/>

⁵³ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, p 280 & 299

⁵⁴ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 5, p 299

the claimants who received payments.⁵⁵ Despite women's experience of sexual and gender-based harms, only two of the documented claims were requested for compensation for sexual harassment.⁵⁶ While accurate records have not been kept, it is likely that compensation for violations of women's rights is still outstanding.

4 THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Solomon Islands recognises that women's experiences and priorities are essential to building inclusive security and sustainable peace grounded in human rights, and is committed to strengthening and reforming its policies, practices and protocols through a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

While there is no longer armed conflict, the legacy of violence endures, and one of the least safe places for women and girls is at home. Nearly 2 in 3 (64%) ever-partnered women experience physical or sexual violence (or both) by their intimate partners, and sexual violence is more common than physical violence.⁵⁷ Violence against women represents the highest proportion of crimes in Solomon Islands.⁵⁸ A High Court Judge estimated that more than 90% of his work involved serious sexual crime.⁵⁹

The National Action Plan (NAP) consolidates action from a range of mutually reinforcing recommendations and directives, and sets out how Solomon Islands will promote and implement the objectives of the UNSC Resolutions and CEDAW. It is a practical tool and organising framework designed to address gender inequalities in security and peace initiatives, budgets, and results, and to ensure women and girls are protected and equitably benefiting from ongoing development and recovery efforts.

The NAP reflects the current context and priorities in Solomon Islands and has been shaped and endorsed by government ministries, provincial stakeholders, civil society, women's groups and churches at all levels. It will guide the implementation of commitments to women's rights as set out in the UN Security Council Resolutions and CEDAW, and other human rights and development related goals.⁶⁰ The Solomon Islands NAP is the 64th to be developed globally, and the first national Plan in the Pacific.⁶¹

⁵⁵ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, pp 281-284

⁵⁶ Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Volume 1, p 276

⁵⁷ Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study: A study on violence against Women and Children. Honiara, 2009.

⁵⁸ Communication with RSIPF Commissioner Frank Pendergrast, October 2016

⁵⁹ Observations and Experiences in Delivering Justice in Solomon Islands - Speech by Justice Stephen Pallaras QC at the Regional Human Rights and the Law Consultation, Auckland, NZ, July 2015. <http://rrrt.spc.int/publications-media/featured-articles/item/693-observations-and-experiences-in-delivering-justice-in-solomon-islands>

⁶⁰ It also supports implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals, specifically, Goal 5, which seeks to *achieve gender equality and empower women and girls*, and Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, which aims to *promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*.

⁶¹ The Autonomous Region of Bougainville (PNG) has developed a Bougainville Action Plan. The Pacific Islands Forum endorsed the Pacific Regional Action Plan 2011-2016.

4.1. NATIONAL POLICIES

The NAP is grounded in the following national laws, policies and plans:

- **Solomon Islands Constitution**, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex;⁶²
- **National Development Strategy 2016 – 2035**, the blueprint for long-term development, which includes objectives to advance gender equality and enhance women's development, and (achieve) increased opportunities for women;
- **National Gender Equality and Women's Development (GEWD) Policy 2016-2020**, which specifies improv(ing) recognition of the role of women in maintaining peace and national security as one of its seven outcomes;
- **National Policy to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls 2016-2020**, which is based on five priority outcomes for the prevention of gender based violence against women and girls (VAWG), protection of victims of VAWG, and prosecuting perpetrators of VAWG;
- **National Peacebuilding Policy**, which aims to improve conflict prevention and management capacities; strengthen structures and institutions of governance for enhanced accountability, responsiveness, stability and effective conflict management; and support community reconciliation, healing, and rehabilitation.
- **Royal Solomon Islands Police Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2018**, which outlines a model for responding to and preventing crime in Solomon Islands, including removing gender based violence in the home.

⁶² The Constitution does not, however, contain a guarantee of substantive equality between women and men.

4.2. RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations

Solomon Islands submitted a *Combined Initial, Second and Third Periodic CEDAW Report* to the CEDAW Committee in January 2013.⁶³ In its *Concluding Observations*, the CEDAW Committee makes specific recommendations to Solomon Islands to improve efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and achieve gender equality. Solomon Islands is required to comply with these recommendations and report on in its next periodic report in November 2018.

The CEDAW Committee's *Concluding Observations* (recommendations) related to Women, Peace and Security call for Solomon Islands to implement the following;⁶⁴

CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations to Solomon Islands Combined Initial, Second and Third Periodic CEDAW Report	
1.	<i>Adopt a Women, Peace and Security NAP and give consideration to the contributions of women in the maintenance of peace</i>
2.	<i>Take into consideration the full spectrum of the Security Council's WPS agenda as reflected in Security Council Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 2122 (2013)</i>
3.	<i>Provide effective remedies for women victims of violence during the ethnic tensions, taking into account international principles and standards of administration of justice and reparations.</i>
4.	<i>Provide adequate human, financial and technical resources to the Supreme Court in order to address cases of VAW during the ethnic tensions</i>
5.	<i>Formally adopt and publish the findings of the TRC, and adopt a framework for the implementation of its recommendations</i>
6.	<i>Implement measures within the scope of the "Pacific Regional Action Plan Women, Peace & Security", and engage in regional processes in the Pacific region.</i>
7.	<i>Develop a strategy with clear time frames to ensure traditional justice mechanisms comply with the human rights standards set forth in the Convention when addressing complaints by women.</i>

⁶³ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=CEDAW/C/SLB/1

⁶⁴ Numbers added here for ease of reference/not in original document

TRC Report and Recommendations

The Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act (2008) stated that the TRC would submit a report following investigation of the events, causes, patterns of violation and parties responsible for the Solomon Islands conflict, and that the report would outline recommendations for legal, political, and administrative reforms, and other measures needed to prevent the repetition of violations or abuses, address impunity, respond to the needs of victims and promote healing and reconciliation.⁶⁵

The TRC Report includes a series of recommendations, grouped by theme. A number of the TRC Recommendations – especially those on **Women, Conflict Trials, Constitutional Reform, and Security** – inform Solomon Islands’ approach to implementing the obligations of the UNSCR Women, Peace and Security Resolutions and the recommendations in GR No. 30. A number of TRC Recommendations, summarised below, are reinforced and/or set out in the actions proposed in the Solomon Islands National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Theme & number	Summary of Recommendations
Women (1)	<i>The TRC recommends 30 percent reserved seats in Parliament for women.</i> ⁶⁶
Women (4)	<i>Legal frameworks, law enforcement, the justice system, and protective and support services must be strengthened to protect women against violence.</i>
Conflict Trials (3)	<i>That a special court be established to expedite the hearing of Tension cases and bring closure to those involved; this special court, as facilitated by the State, shall be accessible to victims in rural and remote areas.</i>
Constitutional Reform (4)	<i>The new constitution must reflect a commitment to full, free and equal participation of women. It shall guarantee equal rights for women and men in all spheres of public and private life; and create affirmative mechanisms whereby discrimination, disabilities and disadvantages to which women have been subjected are removed.</i>
Security (3)	<i>Organise a vetting process in the RSIPF to “clean” the police and develop in the Solomon Islands citizens a new confidence in the RSIPF.</i>

⁶⁵ Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2008 Solomon Islands, 28 August 2008, Part IV 16& 17. Retrieved October 2016: http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/num_act/tarca2008371.

⁶⁶ This is also a Beijing Platform for Action minimum standard

Given the porous border between Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, monitoring of movement between the two countries should be improved and strengthened to ensure there is no illicit trade of any kind.

4.3. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN: OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

The NAP is in line with the commonly agreed pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The four high-level outcomes linked to each of these pillars are;

1. Women's participation, representation and decision-making in peace and security are expanded at all levels.
2. Women's human rights are protected and women are secure from sexual and gender-based violence.
3. Solomon Islands actively prevents conflict and violence against women and girls.
4. Women and girls' priorities and rights are reflected in development and peace building.

The proposed actions are closely aligned with Solomon Islands' policy agenda and reinforce recommendations that have been put forward through other mechanisms, including the *CEDAW Concluding Observations* and the *Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report*. They address structural, institutional, social and cultural barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment, and the multiple and specific factors that contribute to women's insecurity. There is a focus on increasing diverse women's access to spaces, processes, knowledge, skills, justice, and reparations, including young, rural and remote women, and women with disabilities. The actions also focus on duty-bearers, including by strengthening the capacity of those with the responsibility to respect, promote and realise women's human rights.

1. PARTICIPATION PILLAR

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION, REPRESENTATION AND DECISION-MAKING IN PEACE AND SECURITY ARE EXPANDED AT ALL LEVELS

Solomon Islands is committed to expanding women's participation, representation and decision-making in peace and security by:

1.1. Expanding formal mechanisms for women's participation and the reflection of women's priorities in peace and security institutions, policy agendas, budgets, and progress monitoring, including rural, remote, urban, disabled, and young women and girls.

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 1.2.a. Convene and fully resource a biennial Parliamentary Forum on Women's and Girls' Security, as well as support to Provincial Councils and other regular mechanisms, to formally include gender issues and the priorities and perspectives of women and girls' in security dialogue and policy at national and provincial levels.
- 1.2.b. Develop appropriate tools and set up a formal and inclusive monitoring and evaluation process (i.e. a NAP Scorecard) for government and women to track progress on peace and security policy commitments and the WPS NAP. Utilise existing channels and the biennial Parliamentary Forum on Women and Girls' Security to support women's participation and assessment of achievements.
- 1.2.c. Set specific targets for peace and security policy units, teams and steering committees to ensure qualified women with gender expertise are recruited, seconded and/or externally contracted to relevant Ministry policy units, including during drafting, consultation and implementation stages.
- 1.2.d. Build capacity and allocate resources to guarantee rural women's substantive engagement in a range of community based conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes, including Peace Committees and RSIPF Crime Prevention Committees.

1.2. Increasing women's representation in national peace and security decision-making and establish quotas to address the multiple barriers to women's participation.

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 1.2.a. Develop and implement a costed strategy to accelerate adoption of 'Temporary Special Measures' (TSM) to address under-representation of women in all areas of national leadership.

- 1.2.b. Reform the Political Parties Integrity Act (PPIA) to include a minimum quota of at least 30% for women's representation on electoral lists, and establish an oversight mechanism for monitoring implementation of the quota, including developing, adopting and enforcing sanctions for non-compliance.
- 1.2.c. Support regular dialogue between women, women's organisations and government on peace and security by including women and women's organisations in consultative mechanisms with government, including the Parliamentary Forum on Women's and Girls' Security, the Advisory Reporting and Coordination Committee, and in consultative mechanisms for relevant Ministries.

2 PROTECTION PILLAR

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED AND WOMEN ARE SECURED FROM SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Solomon Islands is committed to protecting women's human rights and providing security from SGBV by:

2.1. Strengthening the protection of women and girls by building the capacity of government and civil society actors, including traditional leaders and those responding to humanitarian crises.

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 2.1.a. Sensitise traditional and religious leaders on gender equality and women's rights principles, relevant national laws and international instruments, including CEDAW and UNSCR 1325 to ensure the traditional justice system consistently delivers equal protection for the rights of women and girls.
 - 2.1.b. Provide technical guidance and capacity building on gender and security issues to all uniformed officers, including Immigration and border enforcement/protection staff.
 - 2.1.c. Include women from border communities in policy consultations and border agreement talks, to ensure identification of women's protection and conflict prevention priorities, including issues related to economic security and cross-border trade, trafficking, arms and GBV.
 - 2.1.d. Establish protocols and provide funds to respond to VAW in natural disasters and/or humanitarian emergencies, before waiting for evidence of specific instances to emerge.
- 2.2. *Ensure Solomon Islands' ongoing transitional ^{SEP}justice processes respect women's rights and address gender-based violations, and are inclusive of rural and remote women.*

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 2.2.a. Build women's capacities to facilitate community dialogue, including disseminating findings and recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report to affected communities.
- 2.2.b. When communicating about women's rights violations and implementing the TRC recommendations, take concrete steps to ensure women's safety,

physical and mental well-being, reduce stigma, and protect survivors from further victimisation, including by using □sensitive procedures, and ensuring support services are available.

2.3. *Combat impunity for sexual and gender based violence and ensure protection of women's human rights, including through prosecuting perpetrators.*

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 2.3.a. Work with women victims/survivors to develop strategies to redress conflict related rights violations, with a specific focus on SGBV, that take into account international principles and standards of administration of justice and reparations.
- 2.3.b. Assess the human, financial and technical resources needed to provide effective remedies to women victims of conflict-related rights violations, including support to the High Court, and establish a plan to redress gaps.
- 2.3.c. Ensure justice mechanisms that consider conflict-related cases, including special courts, are accessible to women survivors in rural and remote areas, and that these prioritise women's human rights violations.
- 2.3.d. Assess the extent that past and recent conflict-related reparations have redressed women's rights violations, and ensure ongoing and future programming and resource allocations equitably address women's needs and priorities.

3 PREVENTION PILLAR

SOLOMON ISLANDS ACTIVELY PREVENTS CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Solomon Islands is committed to preventing conflict and violence against women and girls; and ensuring that prevention efforts take account of women's and girls' needs and capacities by:

3.1. Strengthening capacities and increasing resources to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment are central to security institutions and mechanisms, peace building and conflict prevention activities, at all levels.

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 3.1.a. Provide training and technical guidance to security decision makers on the UNSC Resolutions and CEDAW, including the National Security Committee and officials responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of the Solomon Islands National Security Policy. Explicitly build understanding of SGBV as a security priority in Solomon Islands and strengthen commitment and skills to implement the UNSCR provisions.
- 3.1.b. Appoint and train Gender Advisors to be based in Peace Councils/Offices for the duration of the offices' existence, in the provinces and at the National Office.
- 3.1.c. Establish agreed targets for increasing the proportion of female officers in the RSIPF, by rank and unit, including for international deployments. Assess RSIPF management performance against progress towards achieving gender equality outcomes.
- 3.1.d. Resource and build the capacity of the RSIPF Police Women's Network to institutionalise professional and leadership development for female officers; enhance capacity for participation in formal and informal conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes; expand gender analysis skills; and formalise women's involvement in internal and external security policy development.

3.2. Implementing reforms in security institutions that prioritise VAW prevention, responding to women's diverse security concerns, and respecting women's rights.

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 3.2.a. Develop, document, monitor and enforce a Zero-Tolerance Policy on Gender-based Violence and Harassment within the RSIPF, and establish a mechanism to ensure perpetrators are held to account.
- 3.2.b. Review and analyse barriers to reporting and develop mitigation strategies and promote victims/survivors' access to justice, including staff and partners.
- 3.2.c. Undertake an in-depth institutional Gender Audit of the RSIPF to assess gender-based barriers to women's recruitment, professional development, retention and promotion, and implement recommendations.
- 3.2.d. Set specific targets for peace and security policy units, teams and steering committees to ensure qualified women with gender expertise are recruited, seconded and/or externally contracted to relevant Ministry policy units, including during drafting, consultation and implementation stages.
- 3.2.e. Build capacity and allocate resources to guarantee rural women's substantive engagement in a range of community based conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes, including Peace Committees and RSIPF Crime Prevention Committees.

3.3. *Challenge discriminatory gender norms, attitudes and behaviour, including through working with men and boys.*

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 3.3.a. Develop, resource, and deliver women's rights training modules to all new recruits and serving officers through the RSIPF Academy Curriculum. The modules should build on knowledge and skills on gender equality, male advocacy for women's rights, CEDAW and the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions.
- 3.3.b. Provide gender related capacity development and systematic support to police trainers. Conduct regular Training of Trainers on WPS and gender equality, and establish formal mentoring relationships between Police Academy instructors and Police Training advisors.
- 3.3.c. Implement an institutional awareness and sensitisation campaign to increase understanding of gender equality and to eliminate negative stereotypes and harmful practices, including those associated with women's and men's roles in families, custom, society and the RSIPF.

3.4. *Decrease the risk of gender-based violence and conflict during periods of natural disaster, humanitarian crisis and instability.*

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

- 3.4.a. Collect, compile and analyse sex-disaggregated data on the incidence and patterns of SGBV during disasters and humanitarian crises to inform program and policy responses.

4 RECOVERY AND RECONCILIATION PILLAR

WOMEN AND GIRLS PRIORITIES AND RIGHTS ARE REFLECTED IN ALL DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE BUILDING

Solomon Islands is committed to ensuring recovery, rehabilitation and reconciliation efforts respond to the needs and capacity of women and girls:

4.1. *Strengthen women's agency and capacities in recovery and reconciliation processes*

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

4.1.a. Provide training to government and civil society peacebuilding actors on Solomon Islands' women, peace and security obligations under CEDAW/the UNSCRs to ensure equitable implementation of the Solomon Islands National Peacebuilding Policy and the TRC recommendations.

4.1.b. Develop, formalise and resource women's active engagement in community, provincial and national level peacebuilding initiatives and activities, proportionate to those of men.

Specify how women's monitoring of insecurity trends and impacts in the community will inform policy making and be integrated into programming, including in implementation of the Traditional Governance Bill.

4.1.c. Provide training, guidance and support to build rural women's capacity to engage in community conflict management and security governance, including in customary context and traditional systems.

4.2. *Promote equitable peace and recovery processes*

The specific steps it will take to do this include the following actions;

4.2.a. Assess the extent that conflict related reparations in Solomon Islands have redressed violations of women's human rights. Ensure all future programming and resource allocations equitably target women's needs and priorities, particularly rural women.

4.2.b. Review peace related policies, work plans, budgets and resources to assess the extent that they deliver equitable benefits to women and men's peace building and reconciliation priorities, and that program approaches actively challenge and transform discriminatory attitudes and gender norms.

4.2.c. Provide financial, technical and logistical support to women's groups and civil society initiatives that enhance women's peace building, conflict prevention and protection efforts, at all levels.

5 ACCOUNTABILITY, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The role of women in peace and security is one of the seven priority outcomes of the National Gender Equality and Women Development Policy 2016–2020 (NGEWD), and as such, the coordination of the implementation of the NAP will be led by the MWYFCA, the government Ministry responsible for advancing gender equality and promoting women's empowerment.

The NAP is a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral initiative, and delivering on it requires the collective effort of diverse partners, including government, civil society, communities, the UN system and development partners. The NAP will be implemented through national and provincial institutions and processes, in close cooperation with communities, civil society organisations, and development partners.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Overall accountability for delivering the NAP will be through the MWYFCA, which will lead implementation through its Women's Development Division (WDD). An **Advisory Reporting and Coordination Committee (ARCC)** is established under the Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy monitoring and Coordination framework to strengthen the governments' coordination of gender equality programming and interventions in Solomon Islands, and to monitor implementation. The ARCC's role includes compiling and sharing data, facilitating inter-agency collaboration, assisting in mobilising financial and technical resources, and contributing to annual reporting.

The ARCC is comprised of seven membership constituencies;

- *Government gender focal points, senior ministry officials and MWYFCA (one member)*
- *Civil society and the private sector (five members)*
- *Development partners (one member)*

IMPLEMENTATION

MWYFCA will play the key leadership and coordination role in the implementation of action items across government, and lead on implementation of action items assigned to them in the Action and Results Matrix.

The NAP Actions and Results Matrix links the actions, responsible actors, and expected results of the Plan, and will serve as the roadmap in developing, identifying and mobilising funds, technical support and resources, liaising with the key ministries and partners, facilitating provincial stakeholders, and gathering, monitoring and evaluating results.

A **Resource and Implementation Plan** outlining the financial resources and operational support needed for implementation by relevant ministries and partners, and sequencing and prioritisation of all Actions, will be developed in the first six months of the NAP's timeframe. The NAP will be implemented over four years (2017–2021).

4.4. WPS STEERING AND MONITORING GROUP (WPS SMG)

A national **WPS Steering and Monitoring Group** will be established to oversee progress on the implementation of the National Action Plan on WPS. The Group will review data on strategies and actions, and provide recommendations to inform implementation and ensure continuous tracking of results, and contribute to reporting.

The monitoring of the NAP will align with reporting requirements for Solomon Islands' commitments under CEDAW, the GEWD Policy, and the National Peacebuilding Policy. Solomon Islands' periodic reporting on CEDAW will also enable assessment of the impact of the NAP and its contributions to achieving substantive equality. The MYFCYA Minister will table a report on women's WPS priorities annually in Parliament.

The WPS SMG will be a sub-committee of the **Advisory Reporting and Coordination Committee (ARCC)**. It will consist of representatives from government departments, units, and agencies, with active roles and responsibilities under the NAP, including the MNURP, RSIPF, MPNSCS, OPMC/TRC, MJLA, MCILI, MFT and MFAET. The WPS SMG will also include representatives of civil society.

The functions of the WPS SMG will include:

- ⇒ Providing strategic guidance for the coordination of NAP implementation
- ⇒ Overseeing monitoring and reporting against the NAP Results Matrix
- ⇒ Reporting findings to the ARCC, the SI National Advisory Committee for CEDAW, and other key stakeholders

The outputs of the **Parliamentary Forum On Women's And Girls' Security**, including the results of women and girls' security dialogue at national and provincial levels, will also inform tracking of results and reporting.

6 ACTIONS AND RESULTS MATRIX 2017 – 2021

PILLAR I: PARTICIPATION			
Women's participation, representation and decision-making in peace and security is expanded at all levels.			
OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	EXPECTED RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY AND SUPPORT

<p>1.1 Strengthen capacities and increase resources to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment are central to security institutions and mechanisms, peace building and conflict prevention activities, at all levels.</p>	<p>1.1a Provide training and technical guidance to security decision makers on the UNSC WPS Resolutions and CEDAW, including the National Security Committee and officials responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of the Solomon Islands National Security Policy. Explicitly build understanding of SGBV as a critical security priority in Solomon Islands and strengthen commitment and skills to implement the UNSCR WPS provisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Security Committee Members, MPs and key officials have knowledge of Solomon Islands' obligations and greater capacity to implement the UNSC WPS Resolutions and CEDAW, including through the WPS National Action Plan (NAP). • National Security Committee Members, MPs and key officials commit to securing sufficient resources for implementation of the NAP. • The Solomon Islands' National Security Policy identifies and addresses SGBV as a fundamental security priority and recognises the differentiated impacts of conflict and insecurity on women and men, girls and boys. 	<p>MPNSCS OPMC MOFT MWYFCA</p>
<p>1.1b Appoint and train Gender Advisors to be based in Peace Councils/Offices for the duration of the offices' existence, in the provinces and at the National Office.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender perspectives and attention to the goal of gender equality are central to all formal peace related activities, including planning, advocacy, dialogue, resource allocation, and implementation and monitoring of programs. • Women and men have formal roles in State peace-related programming. 	<p>MINURP MPGIS OPMC/TRC MPS</p>	

	<p>1.1c Establish agreed targets for increasing the proportion of female officers in the RSIPF, by rank and unit, including for international deployments. Assess RSIPF management performance against progress towards achieving gender equality outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's engagement in peace building is monitored and promoted. • A strategy, work plan and targets to increase the proportion of female officers in the RSIPF. • A greater proportion of women participate in providing protection and security services at all levels, including in management and in international peacekeeping roles. • A monitored management performance accountability system that promotes increased women's participation in the RSIPF. 	<p>RSIPF MPNSCS MFAET MWYCFA</p>
	<p>1.1d Resource and build the capacity of the RSIPF Police Women's Network to institutionalise professional and leadership development for female officers; enhance capacity for participation in formal and informal conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes; expand gender analysis skills; and formalise women's involvement in internal and external security policy development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and costed work plan to promote, institutionally strengthen and advance the Police Women's Network. • Women in the RSIPF have increased leadership skills, including in gender analysis and policy development. • Women in the RSIPF have increased access to professional development opportunities and a shared commitment to increasing women's leadership in security services. • More RSIPF women officers participate substantively in formal and informal conflict prevention and peacebuilding 	<p>RSIPF MPNSCS MWYCFA Development and international partners</p>

		<p>processes, including community conflict prevention and grievance management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women officers have a mechanism to actively monitor security policies and service practices and are called upon as an important source of peace and security expertise. • SI communities have increased respect for women's role as security providers. 	
<p>1.2 Expand formal mechanisms for women's participation and the reflection of women's priorities in peace and security institutions, policy agendas, budgets, and progress monitoring, including rural, remote, urban, disabled, and young women and girls.</p>	<p>1.2.a. Convene and fully resource a biennial Parliamentary Forum on Women's and Girls' Security, as well as support to Provincial Councils and other regular mechanisms, to formally include gender issues and the priorities and perspectives of women and girls' in security dialogue and policy at national and provincial levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon Islands has a formal national mechanism to ensure diverse women and girls' participation in the development and monitoring of national security policies and resource requirements. • Security sector leaders are directly and systematically informed about women's security priorities and needs. • National peace and security policies and processes are strengthened because they are informed by women's experiences • Gender equality issues are a focus of decision making on national security, budgets and programs. 	<p>MPNSCS OPMC MOFT MWYFCA MPGIS Civil Society Organisations</p>
	<p>1.2.b. Develop appropriate tools and set up a formal and inclusive monitoring and evaluation process (i.e. a NAP Scorecard) for government and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring tools and templates are available to facilitate inclusive monitoring of NAP implementation. 	<p>MWYFCA OPMC</p>

	<p>women to track progress on peace and security policy commitments and the WPS NAP. Utilise existing channels and the biennial Parliamentary Forum on Women and Girls' Security to support women's participation and assessment of achievements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and civil society systematically contribute to monitoring and evaluation of the Solomon Islands' WPS NAP. 	<p>Women's Groups CSOs</p>
<p>1.2.c. Set specific targets for peace and security policy units, teams and steering committees to ensure qualified women with gender expertise are recruited, seconded and/or externally contracted to relevant Ministry policy units, including during drafting, consultation and implementation stages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A higher proportion of qualified women participate in government peace and security policy development and implementation teams and committees, including the SI National Security Policy, the Traditional Governance Bill processes, the RSIPF's Crime Prevention Strategy, the RSIPF Capability Plan, Coastal Policing, and other relevant policies. • Women are included and women's priorities more actively considered in the development and implementation of peace and security related policies. • Gender analysis skills are available and applied in the development of security policies and programming, and gender perspectives are reflected in policy drafting, consultation and validation stages. • More women participate in government security planning and policy development teams. 	<p>MPNSCS MNURP MPS OPMC MWYFCA Civil Society Provincial level Women's groups</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women representatives on decision making boards and ministerial positions are effectively contributing to discussions and decision making 	
<p>1.2.d. Build capacity and allocate resources to guarantee rural women's substantive engagement in a range of community based conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes, including Peace Committees and RSIPF Crime Prevention Committees.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Prevention Committees and Peace Committees are comprised of equal numbers of men and women. • Women leaders are able to equitably participate in community conflict prevention and grievance management processes. • Women's civil society organisations are sufficiently resourced to promote and participate in security, peacebuilding and conflict prevention activities at all levels. 	<p>MPNSCS RSIPF MPGIS Community leaders CSOs Churches</p>
<p>1.3. Increase women's representation in national peace and security decision-making and establish quotas to address the multiple barriers to women's participation.</p>	<p>1.3.a Develop and implement a costed strategy to accelerate adoption of 'Temporary Special Measures' (TSM) to address under-representation of women in all areas of national leadership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national Strategy for endorsing TSM is developed, resourced, and implemented. • Parliament legally endorses TSM by enacting a TSM Act and amending the SI Constitution. • Technical, financial and logistical support is allocated to support women entering politics. 	<p>MWYCFA SIEC OPMC NGOs Development Partners</p>

	<p>1.3.b Reform the Political Parties Integrity Act (PPIA) to include a minimum quota of at least 30% for women's representation on electoral lists, and establish an oversight mechanism for monitoring implementation of the quota, including developing, adopting and enforcing sanctions for non-compliance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women comprise at least 30% of political parties' lists. • Barriers to women's political participation and representation are reduced. • MPs and political parties are held accountable for respecting women's rights. 	
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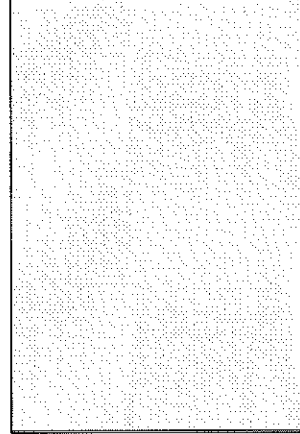
PILLAR II: PROTECTION

Solomon Islands Promotes Women's Human Rights and Protects from Gender Based Violence

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	EXPECTED RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY AND SUPPORT
<p>2.1 Strengthen the protection of women and girls by building the capacity of government and civil society actors, including traditional leaders and those responding to humanitarian crises.</p>	<p>2.1.a. Sensitise traditional and religious leaders on gender equality and women's rights principles, relevant national laws and international instruments, including CEDAW and UNSCR 1325 to ensure the traditional justice system consistently delivers equal protection for the rights of women and girls.</p> <p>2.1.b. Provide technical guidance and capacity building on gender and security issues to all uniformed officers, including Immigration and border enforcement/protection staff.</p> <p>2.1.c. Include women from border communities in policy consultations and border agreement talks, to ensure identification of women's</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional justice actors are trained in the skills, knowledge and laws related to their accountability to violations of the rights of women and girls, in line with international standards. Uniformed and border enforcement officers trained in gender, security and human rights, including UN Security Council Resolutions and CEDAW. Established gender-responsive guidelines and protocol on border service delivery. 	<p>MJLA MWYCFA Community and traditional leaders Churches NGOs</p> <p>RSIPF MFT (Customs & Excise Division) MCILI OPMC</p> <p>MPNSCS RSIPF MFAET</p>

	<p>protection and conflict prevention priorities, including issues related to economic security and cross-border trade, trafficking, arms and GBV.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women from border communities actively participate in decision-making that increases their protection. 	OPMC
2.1.d.	<p>Establish protocols and provide funds to respond to VAW in natural disasters and/or humanitarian emergencies, before waiting for evidence of specific instances to emerge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols for responding to VAW in disasters are established, funded, and implemented when appropriate. 	MECCDMM
2.2	<p>Ensure Solomon Islands' ongoing transitional justice processes respect women's rights and address gender-based violations, and are inclusive of rural and remote women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.2.a. Build women and men's capacities to facilitate community dialogue, including disseminating findings and recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report to affected communities. • 2.2.b. When communicating about women's rights violations and implementing the TRC recommendations, take concrete steps to ensure women's safety, physical and mental well-being, reduce stigma, and protect survivors from further victimisation, including by using sensitive procedures, and ensuring support services are available. 	<p>MNURP OPMC/TRC Women leaders Churches NGOs and CSOs</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate measures are in place to protect women from stigma or harm (physical, emotional, social, reputation, etc.) and support their access to justice. • Women appropriately supported and protected when reviewing and responding to the TRC Report of 	<p>MNURP OPMC/TRC MWYCFA Women leaders Churches CSOs</p>

		conflict-related human rights violations.	
<p>2.3 Combat impunity for gender based violence and ensure protection of women's human rights, including through prosecuting perpetrators.</p>	<p>2.3.a. Work with women victims/survivors to develop strategies to redress conflict related rights violations, with a specific focus on SGBV, that take into account international principles and standards of administration of justice and reparations.</p> <p>2.3.b. Assess the human, financial and technical resources needed to provide effective remedies to women victims of conflict-related rights violations, including support to the High Court, and establish a plan to redress gaps.</p> <p>2.3.c. Ensure justice mechanisms that consider conflict-related cases, including special courts, are accessible to women survivors in rural and remote areas, and that these prioritise women's human rights violations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women identify specific priorities and strategies for implementing TRC recommendations. • An endorsed plan for redressing violations of women's rights during the Tensions. • Existence of a costed appraisal of resources required to effectively respond to women's conflict related rights violations at all levels, including the justice system's capacity. • Women victims/survivors' have increased access to justice mechanisms and their justice needs are progressively met. • The official recommendations of the TRC Report and the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations to Solomon Islands are fully implemented. 	<p>MNURP OPMC/TRC MWYCFA Women leaders Churches CSOs</p> <p>MNURP OPMC/TRC MJLA MWYCFA</p> <p>MNURP OPMC/TRC MJLA MWYCFA</p>

	<p>2.3.d. Assess the extent that past and recent conflict-related reparations have redressed women's rights violations, and ensure ongoing and future programming and resource allocations equitably address women's needs and priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-sensitive cost and program analysis of conflict-related reparations. • Recommendations for gender equitable reparations, including distribution mechanisms, and for full implementation of the TRC recommendations related to women. 	<p>MNURP OPMC/TRC MJLA</p>
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PILLAR III: PREVENTION			
Solomon Islands actively prevents conflict and violence against women and girls.			
OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	EXPECTED RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY AND SUPPORT
<p>3.1 Implement reforms in security institutions that prioritise VAW prevention, respond to women's diverse security concerns, and respect women's rights.</p>	<p>3.1.a. Develop, document, monitor and enforce a Zero-Tolerance Policy on Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Harassment within the RSIPF, and establish a mechanism to ensure perpetrators are held to account.</p> <p>Review and analyse barriers to reporting and develop mitigation strategies and promote victims/survivors' access to justice, including staff and partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A robust, widely disseminated institutional policy and enforcement framework increases women's protection from violence. • Security actors are held to account for any violations of the rights of women and girls, in line with international standards. • Barriers to reporting violence are identified and mitigation strategies developed, including institutional victim/survivor protection and support initiatives. • A strong complaints mechanism for SGBV is in place within security institutions. 	<p>MPNSCS RSIPF MWYCFA</p>

	<p>3.1.b. Undertake an in-depth institutional Gender Audit of the RSIPF to assess gender-based barriers to women's recruitment, professional development, retention and promotion, and implement recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to women's participation in providing security services are identified. • Recommendations for gender responsive institutional reforms provide a roadmap for expanding women's participation and leadership in security services and decision-making, and an evidence base for an RSIPF Gender Policy and Strategy. • Increased operational effectiveness, citizens' trust, and enhancement of rights-based security services. 	RSIPF
<p>3.2 Challenge discriminatory gender norms, attitudes and behaviour, including through working with men and boys.</p>	<p>3.2.a. Develop, resource, and deliver women's rights training modules to all new recruits and serving officers through the RSIPF Academy Curriculum. The modules should build on knowledge and skills on gender equality, male advocacy for women's rights, CEDAW and the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new RSIPF recruits and serving officers have increased knowledge, understanding and commitment to implementing CEDAW and the WPS resolutions. • The RSIPF Academy has customised training modules to train police officers in gender equality and human rights. 	RSIPF
	<p>3.2.b. Provide gender related capacity development and systematic support to police trainers. Conduct regular Training of Trainers on WPS and gender equality, and establish formal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSIPF Trainers are equipped with skills and support to provide ongoing, high quality gender equality, human rights and WPS training to new recruits and serving officers. 	RSIPF Supporting: CSOs MWYCFA

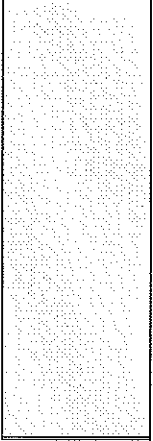
<p>3.3 Decrease the risk of sexual and gender-based violence and conflict during periods of natural disaster, humanitarian crisis and instability.</p>	<p>mentoring relationships between Police Academy instructors and Police Training advisors.</p> <p>3.2.c. Implement an institutional awareness and sensitisation campaign to increase understanding of gender equality and to eliminate negative stereotypes and harmful practices, including those associated with women's and men's roles in families, custom, society and the RSIPF.</p> <p>3.3.a Collect, compile and analyse sex-disaggregated data on the incidence and patterns of SGBV during disasters and humanitarian crises to inform program and policy responses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSIPF officers have greater understanding of gender equality and effectively counter discriminatory behaviors and practices. • Number of codes of conduct, practices, and curricula for security forces that incorporate a gender perspective 	<p>RSIPF Supporting: CSOs MWYCFA</p> <p>[list responsible organisation]</p>
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PILLAR IV: RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND RECONCILIATION

Women and girls priorities and rights are reflected in all development and peace building.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	EXPECTED RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY AND SUPPORT
<p>4.1 Strengthen women's agency and capacities in recovery and reconciliation processes</p>	<p>4.1.a. Provide training to government and civil society peacebuilding actors on Solomon Islands' women, peace and security obligations under CEDAW/the UNSCRs to ensure equitable implementation of the Solomon Islands National Peacebuilding Policy and the TRC recommendations.</p> <p>4.1.b. Develop, formalise and resource women's active engagement in community, provincial and national level peacebuilding initiatives and activities, proportionate to those of men.</p> <p>Specify how women's monitoring of insecurity trends and impacts in the community will inform policy making and be integrated into programming, including in implementation of the Traditional Governance Bill.</p> <p>4.1.c. Provide training, guidance and support to build rural women's</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key state and civil society actors responsible for delivering peace-related programs have skills and knowledge about WPS, gender equality and human rights. • Government has increased institutional capacity for gender responsive implementation of Solomon Islands' peace policies and frameworks. • Women's conflict prevention, peacebuilding and security governance priorities and needs are identified, monitored and incorporated in national and local policy development, programming, and resource allocation. • Women and men equitably benefit from capacity development initiatives related 	<p>MNURP OPMC/TRC MWYFCA</p> <p>MNURP MPGIS MWCYFA CSOs Churches</p> <p>MNURP</p>

	<p>capacity to engage in community conflict management and security governance, including in customary context and traditional systems.</p>	<p>to conflict management, security governance and peace building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women have increased capacity to participate in community level peace and security mechanisms (i.e., Crime Prevention Councils, Provincial Peace offices, Village Peace Councils, the National and Provincial Councils of Women). 	<p>MPGIS MWCYFA CSOs Churches</p>
<p>4.2 Promote equitable peace and recovery processes.</p>	<p>4.2.a. Assess the extent that conflict related reparations in Solomon Islands have redressed violations of women's human rights. Ensure all future programming and resource allocations equitably target women's needs and priorities, particularly rural women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-sensitive cost and program analysis of conflict-related reparations. • Commitment to gender equitable reparations and restoration mechanisms and full implementation of the TRC recommendations related to women. 	<p>MNURP MPGIS OPMC/TRC CSOs UN System and development partners</p>
	<p>4.2.b. Review peace related policies, work plans, budgets and resources to assess the extent that they deliver equitable benefits to women and men's peace building and reconciliation priorities, and that program approaches actively challenge and transform discriminatory attitudes and gender norms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of existing peace related programs identifies gender gaps and outlines recommendations for needed reforms. • Peace building policies, programs and budgets respond to women's and men's peacebuilding and reconciliation priorities. 	<p>MNURP MPGIS OPMC/TRC MDPAC</p>
	<p>4.2.c. Provide financial, technical and logistical support to women's groups and civil society initiatives that enhance women's peace building.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's groups have strengthened institutional capacity and more resources to effectively lead and engage in priority peace and security initiatives. 	<p>MNURP MPGIS CSOs</p>

	<p>conflict prevention and protection efforts, at all levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources allocated to conflict prevention and management, violence protection and peace building equitably benefit women and men. 	<p>UN System and development partners</p>
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ANNEX 1: DEVELOPMENT OF THE NAP

The NAP development process was comprised of a number of key events and phases, over a period of several years. These are;

1. **An inclusive consultation process with women affected by conflict and violence.** Women from throughout Solomon Islands directly shared their experiences, priorities and concerns directly through numerous focus group discussions, seminars, and in-depth, semi-structured interviews. The knowledge, perspectives and insights of Solomon Islands' civil society organisations and churches directly informed the development of the NAP. The consultations drew upon the experiences of women affected by conflict and those engaged in security and peace building, on issues of participation, protection, prevention, recovery and rehabilitation.
2. **Consultations with duty-bearers.** In-depth interviews and follow-up working sessions with government, United Nations agencies, chiefs, the RSIPF and RAMSI, and other duty-bearers enabled a stocktake of initiatives, an assessment of gaps and needs, and the development of strategies that informed the development of the Plan.
3. **Document Review.** A desk audit of existing commitments, policies and actions across government departments was undertaken to ensure the NAP aligns, reinforces and advances Solomon Islands work in the peace and security sector.
4. **A Women's Peace Summit.** The Summit was held Honiara on October 2016 and was designed to gather ideas and input on how Solomon Islands could progress the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and to collectively validate the draft National Action Plan.
5. **Peer Review Workshop.** A Peer Review Workshop was held with government and civil society technical experts to examine feedback on the draft NAP, and make changes prior to submission to the SI Cabinet for endorsement.

ANNEX 2: UNSCR 1325

United Nations S/RES/1325 (2000)

Security Council Distr.: General 31 October 2000 Resolution 1325 (2000)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, on 31 October 2000

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, as well as relevant statements of its President, and recalling also the statement of its President to the press on the occasion of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (International Women's Day) of 8 March 2000 (SC/6816),

Recalling also the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Expressing concern that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and recognizing the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,

Reaffirming also the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,

Emphasizing the need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programmes take into account the special needs of women and girls,

Recognizing the urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and in this regard noting the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support

Operations (S/2000/693),

Recognizing also the importance of the recommendation contained in the statement of its President to the press of 8 March 2000 for specialized training for all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations,

Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Noting the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

1. Urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict;
2. Encourages the Secretary-General to implement his strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes;
3. Urges the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, and in this regard calls on Member States to provide candidates to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in a regularly updated centralized roster;
4. Further urges the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel;
5. Expresses its willingness to incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that, where appropriate, field operations include a gender component;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide to Member States training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women, as well as on the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping and peace-building measures, invites Member States to incorporate these elements as well as HIV/AIDS awareness training into their national training programmes for military and civilian police personnel in preparation for deployment, and further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations receive similar training;
7. Urges Member States to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant

funds and programmes, inter alia, the United Nations Fund for Women and United Nations Children's Fund, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant bodies;

8. Calls on all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia:

(a) The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction;

(b) Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements;

(c) Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary;

9. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, the Refugee Convention of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the two Optional Protocols thereto of 25 May 2000, and to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

10. Calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict;

11. Emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls, and in this regard stresses the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible from amnesty provisions;

12. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, including in their design, and recalls its resolutions 1208 (1998) of 19 November 1998 and 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000;

13. Encourages all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and to take into account the needs of their dependents;

14. Reaffirms its readiness, whenever measures are adopted under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, to give consideration to their potential impact on the civilian population,

bearing in mind the special needs of women and girls, in order to consider appropriate humanitarian exemptions;

15. Expresses its willingness to ensure that Security Council missions take into account gender considerations and the rights of women, including through consultation with local and international women's groups;

16. Invites the Secretary-General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, and further invites him to submit a report to the Security Council on the results of this study and to make this available to all Member States of the United Nations;

17. Requests the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to include in his reporting to the Security Council progress on gender mainstreaming throughout peacekeeping missions and all other aspects relating to women and girls;

18. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

ANNEX 3: STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Ethel Sigimanu	Permanent Secretary	MWYCFA	Honiara
Peter Mae	Under Secretary	MNURP	Honiara
Justus Denni	Permanent Secretary	MNURP	Honiara
Edmond Sikua	Permanent Secretary	MPNSCS	Honiara
Solomon Sisimia	GBV Officer	RSIPF	Honiara
Vincent Ngaele	GBV Officer	RSIPF	Honiara
Ian Bara	Academy Director	RSIPF	Honiara
Sophie Edgen	Manager	World Bank Community Governance & Grievance Management	Honiara
John Wasi	Permanent Secretary	RAMSI	Honiara
Justine Braithewaite	Special Coordinator	RAMSI	
Chris Tabea	Deputy Director/Peace	MNURP	Honiara
Kemuel Laeta	Director/Policy	MNURP	Honiara
Reuben Lilo	Director	MNURP	Honiara
Magreth Etua		MNURP	Honiara
Father John	Advisor Peace	PMO	Honiara
Caroline Laore	Consultant for TRC	PMO	Honiara
Jolina Tausinga	Senior Desk Officer/UN Treaties & Americas	MFAET	Honiara
Eric Ulufai	PAO	MJLA	Honiara
John Foteliwale	Under Secretary	MHA	Honiara
Mathew Mumane	Police Officer	RSIPF	Honiara
Gwen Ratu	Assistant Commissioner	RSIPF	Honiara
Juanita Mataga	Deputy Commissioner	RSIPF	Honiara
Frank Prendergast	Commissioner of Police	RSIPF	Honiara
Cathy Hoiau	Police Officer	Sexual Assault Squad/RSIPF	Honiara
Lynette Tora	CEO	National Judiciary	Honiara
Tina Alufurai	Member	SIFGA	Honiara
Georgina Sogote'e	Coordinator	Women for Peace	Honiara
Selina Galo	President	Women's Federation for Peace	Honiara

Claudetta Liliau	Member	Women for Peace	Honiara
Eileen Kaia	Vice-president	Women for peace/Holy Cross Parish	Honiara
Matina ului	Member	Catholic Women	Honiara
Mary Taeasi	Member	Women for Peace/Honiara	Honiara
Yvonne Keuahu	President	Lord Howe Women	Honiara
Gillian Tahi Amani	Member	Women in Business	Honiara
Josephine Teakeni	Director	VBMSI	Honiara
Lisa Horiwapu		VBMSI	Honiara
Stella Waioha	Femlink Correspondent	VBMSI	Honiara
Olga Chapangi	Women in Agriculture	VBMSI	Honiara
Emily	Staff	SINCW	Honiara
Casper Fa'asala	GS (Ag)	SINCW	Honiara
Jemima Tagini	Vice President	Honiara Council of Women	Honiara
Joanna Haeta	Finance and Admin Assistant	YWCA	Honiara
Savina Nongebatu	Senior Admin Officer	PWDSI	Honiara
Lynffer Wini-Multungtung	Centre Manager	Family Support Centre	Honiara
Roberta Ramofuila	Counsellor	Family Support Centre	Honiara
Pionie Boso	Program Manager	WRAM	Honiara
Afu Billy	Board Member	WRAM	Honiara
Maria Alberto	Gender Program Manager	World Vision SI	Honiara
Koisau Sade	Sector Coordinator - Gender	World Vision SI	Honiara
Kiri Dicker	Advisor	Oxfam	Honiara
Aggie Podarua	SOSAI	BOD	Honiara
Grace Hilly	Member	YWPG	Honiara
Christina Houaisuta	Coordinator	Strive for Change Association	Honiara
Lesley Sanga	Reporter	Solomon Star	Honiara
Josephine Kama	Consultant	Self-employed	Honiara
Lilly Chekana	Chief	Tandai House of Chief	Honiara
Luke Forau	Researcher		Honiara
Pauline Soaki	Director MWDD	MWYCFA	Honiara

Pip Robertson	Gender Adviser	MWYCFA	Honiara
Vaela Ngai	GEWD Policy Coordinator	MWYCFA	Honiara
Thompson Araia	PWDO	MWYCFA	Honiara
Sarah Buka	PWDO	MWYCFA	Honiara
Olga Rabede	Advisor	UNDP	Honiara
John wasi	Permanent Secretary	RAMSI	Honiara
Alvina Erekalı	Country Project Coordinator	UN Women	Honiara
Audrey Manu	National Programme Coordinator/AGJP	UN Women	Honiara
India Sojon	Gender Advisor	UN Women	Honiara
Chantelle Boland	Second Secretary (Development Cooperation)	DFAT	Honiara
Margaret Moveni	Chief Planning Officer	Western Provincial Government	Western Province
Delwin Dokese	Coordinator	Provincial Council of Women	Western Province
Jean Wong	President/Ward 17	Provincial Council of Women	Western Province
Kalasila Navusu	President/Ward 13	Provincial Council of Women	Western Province
Doreen Takona	Children's Desk Officer	Temotu Provincial Government	Temotu
Rose Ilale	Women Police Constable	RSIPF	Temotu
Dora Mesa	Member	Noah Women's Association	Temotu
Hellen Nowak	Women Desk Officer	Choiseul Provincial Government	Choiseul
Nellie Neko	Admin Officer	Women Resource Centre	Choiseul
Lisa Haruwe	Member	Women for Peace	Choiseul
Suzy Amon	Coordinator	Lauru Region United Church Women's Fellowship	Choiseul
Salote P Virivolomo	Ordained Minister	Weslyan Methodist Church	Choiseul
Danielle Elson	Senior Peace officer	Provincial MNURP	Choiseul
Loretta Soaki	Women Desk Officer	Isabel Provincial Government	Isabel
Judy Tabiru	President	Provincial Council of Women	Isabel

Rachel Leka	Literacy Coordinator	Mother's Union	Isabel
Stephanie Pollen	Vice President	Avaiki Youth Student Association	Rennell and Bellona
Connie Temah	Executive Member	Provincial Council of Women	Rennell and Bellona
Rosemary Tenaha	President	Provincial Council of Women	Rennell and Bellona
Faith Pwe'a	Senior Admin officer, Community Governance and Social Services	Makira Provincial Government	Makira
Agnes Wetara	Vice-President	Provincial Council of Women	Makira
Hellen Buga	Treasurer	Provincial Council of Women	Malaita
Betty Justice	Member	Hearts of Hope	Malaita
Francis Kairi	Deputy Director	Malaita Peace Office	Malaita
Jacinta Sale	Women Desk Officer	Central Provincial Government	Central
Margaret Meta	Vice-President	Provincial Council of Women	Central
Margaret Seka	President	Mothers Union Diocese of Central Solomons	Central
Ellen Joy	Women Desk Officer	Guadalcanal Provincial Government	Guadalcanal
Greenta Tome	President	Provincial Council of Women	Guadalcanal
Edalyn Keparavovo	Leader	SDA Dorcas	Guadalcanal
Lucy Manakako	Coordinator	Widows Association, Catholic Women, Tangarare Parish	Guadalcanal
Margaret Fale		White River Community/ West Honiara	Guadalcanal
Hilda Kii	Member	Provincial Council of Women	Guadalcanal

ANNEX 4: REFERENCES

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Rehn, Elisabeth and E. Johnson Sirleaf, *Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-building*, New York: United Nations Development Fund for Women, 2002

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PRESS RELEASE

UN Support National Women's Summit on Peace and Security

October 6, 2016 (Honiara, Solomon Islands)

UN Women and UNDP, through the United Nations Peace Building Fund (UN PBF), is supporting the National Summit on Women next week on 10-12 October.

The three-day event lead by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) brings women from across the country together to discuss the draft national action plan 2016 for Women, Peace and Security. The summit will be an opportunity to build a consensus on the way forward to advance the agenda on women's participation in politics and peacebuilding.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, during the launch of the UN PBF in July reiterated that "We cannot talk peace without equality between women and men. Maintaining and promoting peace and security requires women's equal participation in decision-making. A National Action plan ensures that gender equality is mainstreamed across all peace building plans and programmes".

Ethel Sigimanu, Permanent Secretary for MWYCFA, is expecting during the summit a coherent voice emerge among women's groups on peace and development issues through consensus on this national action plan.

Alvina Erekali, the Country Programme Co-ordinator of UN Women Solomon Islands, is very encouraged by this partnership with the government and civil society for this summit. It will be an opportunity for facilitation between women's representatives and policy makers from all provinces. It is an opportunity for the government to explain their priorities and for the provincial representatives to provide real input.

Azusa Kubota, the head of UN Joint Presence, highlighted the Solomon Islands Government is a party to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN SCR 1325), a commitment to address the impact of conflict on women and recognises the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management, conflict resolution, and sustainable peace.

The National Action Plan is a practical tool to organise and implement policies related to peace, security and justice, and to help integrate women's rights and gender equality perspectives into security and peace building. It provides the opportunity for Government, civil society, development and peace advocates to consolidate thinking, debate and create action.

In addition, a recently completed UN Women report on "The Influence of Gender Attitudes and Norms on Voter Preferences in Solomon Islands" will be presented at the summit. It recommends enabling change and removing political barriers to allow more effective participation for women in the political system; equipping women to operate more effectively within the current system; and developing a comprehensive strategy for women's political participation.

UN Women and UNDP actively support continuing inclusive spaces for women's dialogue in building long term peace, justice and security.

END

The National Women's Summit will be held Monday 10 – Wednesday 12 October 2016 at Heritage Park, Honiara. Media are welcome to attend.

About the UN Peace Building Fund - This program, "supporting peaceful and inclusive transition in Solomon Islands" presents a tremendous opportunity for the United Nations to engage with Solomon Islands' stakeholders and, together, make a positive contribution to the peacebuilding efforts in the country.

For media enquires, please contact:

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