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## Western Provincial Dialogue

**Theme: Sustaining Peace and Accelerating Development in Western Province**

*Venue: United Church Hall*

*23–24 May 2017*

Western leaders and people have engaged in various peace building and development dialogue since the late 1990s. These dialogues were primarily aimed at dealing with the negative spill over effects of the Bougainville crisis; the impacts of 2000 to 2003 ethnic/social unrest in Solomon Islands; and the devastating impacts of 2007 tsunami that cost the lives of more than 50 people and left thousands homeless in Western Province. Outcomes and resolutions of these dialogue were documented in reports including: (i) Report on the Western Province Peace and Reconciliation Symposium 2008; (ii) Western Province Stakeholders and Chiefs meeting series from 2009 – 2010; (iii) Western Province Women Peace Building Conference 2013; (iv) Western Province Youth Peace-Building Forum 2012; (v) Central-West Women Peace Building Conference 2014; (v) Progress Report on the Border Crisis Spill Over and Compensation claim Package of Shortland and Northwest Choiseul. These reports have highlighted critical issues and challenges that require a comprehensive approach to sustainable development and sustaining peace in Western Province and Solomon Islands. These dialogues presented the opportunity to discuss future peacebuilding initiatives designed to bridge the gap between the rural communities in Western Province and the service delivery capacity of the national government, the provincial governments, donor partners and stakeholders in Solomon Islands in terms of Sustaining Peace and Accelerating Development. Hence, most, if not, these issues have been integrated into the Western Province's submission to the present constitutional reform exercise. However, it is important for this purpose to further highlight the gaps in present institutional framework and recommend a strong follow-up implementation and monitoring arrangement and commitments by Western people and leaders during this provincial dialogue.

Western Provincial Dialogue Secretariat have proposed the following three thematic priorities for this provincial dialogue that contribute towards securing local commitment to sustaining peace and accelerating developments in Western Province: (i) Understanding the SDGs and linkages to local development goals. (ii) Vigorously pursuing peacebuilding efforts through inclusive community participation. (iii) Maximizing the potential of women and youth as agents of change.

The Western provincial dialogue provides an opportunity and space for Western leaders and people to examine and discuss that nexus between security, sustainable and environmentally friendly economic development initiatives and sustainable peace. It will provide the political, church, women and youth leaders, village elders, academics, and other members of the community an equal opportunity and safe space to discuss future peace building initiatives for Western Province through sustainable development activities.

The objectives of this dialogue are to:

1. Provide a safe space for inclusive dialogue aimed at finding local solutions and commitments to sustain peace that are owned by leaders and people of Western Province, and the national government of Solomon Islands.
2. Identify, examine and discuss the development challenges and economic potentials of the province.
3. Identify areas of reform for strengthening governance and build consensus around how to achieve the results.

The key issues emanating from this dialogue will be presented at the National Dialogue to be convened from 14-15 June 2017 in Honiara. The dialogue is a joint initiative by the Western Provincial government and the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) with support from UNDP through the UN Peace Building Fund Project.

## Dialogue Program

<b>Day 1</b> <b>Tuesday, 23 May 2017</b>		
	<b>Theme/Topic/Session</b>	<b>Facilitators/Resource Persons</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening</b>	
8:30 – 10:00 am	<p>Opening Prayer National Anthem Western Provincial Anthem</p> <p>Welcome remarks</p> <p>UN Remarks</p> <p>Key note address</p> <p>Group photo</p>	<p>Rev. Bishop Luciano Capelli, <i>SBD, Catholic Bishop, Gizo</i></p> <p>Hon. Wayne Maepioh, <i>Premier, Western Province.</i></p> <p>Hon. Samson Maneka, <i>Minister, MNURP.</i></p> <p>Ms. Azusa Kubota, <i>UNDP Country Manager and Head of UNJPO Solomon Islands</i></p> <p>Hon. Manasseh Sogavare <i>Prime Minister, Solomon Islands</i></p>
10:00 – 11:30am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dialogue session 1:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stocktaking Peace, Rule of Law and Governance reform as critical foundations of Sustainable Peace and Development</b></p> <p><i>The aim of the session is to discuss the relationships between peace, rule of law and good governance as the key enablers for achieving the sustainable peace and development goals at the national and provincial levels. It will discuss the sustainable development goals and the challenges and opportunities for incorporating them into national and provincial government policies, plans and programs.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Key recommendations from previous dialogues on Western Province</i></li> <li>• <i>How can Western Province achieve sustainable development within the current institutional framework?</i></li> <li>• <i>How to build linkages between National Development Plan, Western provincial plan and community plan?</i></li> <li>• <i>Why do peace, the rule of law and good governance are prerequisites for achieving sustainable development?</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Mr. Henry Zimbo, <i>Provincial Advisor, WP.</i></p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Hon George Solingi Lilo, <i>MPA, WP</i> Ms. Rendy Solomon, <i>Gizo/Kolombagara Women Rep</i></p> <p><i>MDPAC Representative</i></p> <p><u>Rapporteurs:</u> Mr. Brian Lenga, <i>UNDP</i> Ms. Sandra Barrows, <i>UNDP</i></p>
11:30 – 12:00 noon	<b>Tea Break</b>	

12:00 – 1:30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dialogue Session 2:</b></p> <p><b>Education as a key driver for Peace and Sustainable Development in Western Province</b></p> <p><i>This session will review the key methods of educating including civic education, public awareness, communication, training and capacity building to effect change in attitude and behaviour for the achievement of theme: ‘Sustaining Peace and Accelerating Development’. This session will discuss formal, non-formal/ informal education and learning. Generally, it considers education as a means for achieving sustainable development.</i></p> <p><b>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What is the role of education in sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could the inclusion of cultural values and norms in our school curriculum sustain peace and stability and accelerate development?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are the challenges facing our education system today? What role can education play to promote peacebuilding?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could a community school model increase the educational and social involvement of people associated with the schools in Western Province to achieving sustained peace and accelerating development?</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. George Solingi Lilo, MPA, WP</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Hn. Dr. Derrick Sikua, MP, Northeast Guadalcanal. Hon. Wayne Maepioh, Premier, Western Province.</p> <p><b>Rapporteurs:</b> Mr. Andrickson Magu, Deputy Clerk, WPG Ms. Reginal Lepping, Youth Representative</p>
1:30 – 2:30 pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
2:30 – 4:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dialogue Session 3:</b></p> <p><b>Nexus between Peace and Development: Sustainable Tourism and Development in Western Province</b></p> <p><i>Western Province has a lot of untapped potential in economic development and the tourism sector could be developed for the benefit of province and the country. This session will discuss the challenges and opportunities for promoting sustainable tourism development in the Western Province. It will highlight how funding for tourism development have been delivered over the past decade and highlight the factors contributing to the success or failure of both donor and government funded tourism development projects. It aims to outline they key factors for success that could be replicated and upscaled across the province. These lessons learned will be used to inform the design and delivery of future tourism and infrastructure development projects to ensure projects initiatives are contextualised, market oriented and sustainable.</i></p> <p><b>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the immediate priorities where tourism development funding should be allocated to?</i></li> <li>• <i>To what extent do the development interventions by donors and national government achieve their objectives? (effectiveness)</i></li> <li>• <i>How can the Western Provincial tap into all forms of foreign development assistance to help finance its future Development aspirations in infrastructure and specialised technical assistance/expertise to boost tourism in the province?</i></li> </ul> <p>Panel discussions: 35 minutes Group discussions and reporting: 55 minutes</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Mr. Warren Paia, PS, Fundamental Reform, OPMC</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Moses Tepai, Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Tourism. HE Mr. Don Higgins, New Zealand High Commissioner. Mr Adrian Wickham, Managing Director, SolTuna Ltd.</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Sandra Barrows, UNDP Ms. Reginal Lepping, Youth Representative</p>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>	
4:30 – 6:00 pm	<p><b>Dialogue Session: 4</b></p> <p><b>Devolution, Community Governance &amp; Peace Building efforts in Western Province</b></p> <p><i>The key component of the Solomon Islands Constitution of 1978 is the provision of the Provincial Government System that provides for the following fundamental functions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Equitable sharing of national and local resources</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Promoting accountability, transparency, participation and decision making</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Communities to manage their own resources</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Honourable Solongi Lilo</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Warren Paia, PS, Fundamental Reform, OPMC Mr. Reuben Lilo, Director, Peace and Reconciliation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Bridging economic and social inequality gaps by decentralizing selected functions; Fostering unity, cohesion and co-existence among communities.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This session will reflect on whether the current provincial Government system facilitated economic growth, community stability and social inclusion in the in Western Province. If devolution through the present Provincial Government Act 1997 cannot guarantee accelerated development that would lead to reduced inequalities and vulnerabilities, could the introduction of a Community Governance Ordinance succeeds in bringing an accelerated development within the present institutionalized framework? Western province has established community governance structure including the Council of Chiefs, the House of Chiefs and the Village Committee. This session will examine how kastom and churches could further contribute to building stable, peaceful and economically developed communities in the province.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Had the necessary provisions for accelerating rural development as envisaged in the Constitution and the Provincial Government Act of 1997 realised?</i></li> <li>• <i>How were the provincial governments facilitating citizens’ participation in governance, peacebuilding and development processes?</i></li> <li>• <i>What is/are the key natural resources in Western Province and how has the provincial government mainstreamed interests of the all stakeholders including resource owners and investors in the management of these interests?</i></li> </ul> <p>Panel discussions: 35 minutes Group discussions and reporting: 55 minutes</p>	<p><u>Rapporteur:</u> Mr. Gideon Tuke, <i>Principal Admin Officer, Governance, WPG.</i> Ms Margaret Qoloni Etua, <i>US, Admin, MNURP.</i></p>
6:00pm	Closing Prayer End of day 1	Pr. Ivan Maike
<p><b>Day 2</b> Wednesday, 24 May 2017</p>		
8:30 – 9:00 am	<p>Opening Prayer Pr. Clifton Mark</p> <p>Recap of Day 1 Mr Bruno Manele, <i>CPRO, Western Province.</i> /Ms Clarinda Hanna, <i>CPRO, Western Province.</i></p>	
9:00 – 10:30 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dialogue Session 5:</b></p> <p><b>Linking Women Empowerment to Sustainable Development goals in Western Province</b></p> <p><i>Women empowerment is providing equal opportunities for women to gain power and to control over their own lives. It focuses on the premise that the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not depend on whether one is born male or female. This means that women would have equal access to opportunities and resources that enables them to pursue an array of options in life to fulfil their potential. Women would have control over their own life, not only at home but outside the home and they can influence and contribute meaningfully to effect social change and sustainable development. This session will focus on various strategies to promote women empowerment in Western Province. It will examine whether an affirmative action strategy could be developed to narrow the “gender gap” to create an equal playing field for women and men to enhance sustainable development in Western Province.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the current mechanisms to facilitate the participation of women in sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts at the national, provincial and community levels?</i></li> <li>• <i>What challenges do women face in this regard and how can they be addressed effectively?</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Honourable Maloney Lopoto, Deputy Primer, WPG</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Ms Ethel Sigimanu, PS, MWYCFA Ms. Rendy Solomon</p> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> Mr. Brian Lenga, UNDP. Ms. Reginal Lepping, Youth Representative.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How can their participation in social, political and economic spheres of life be better appreciated and enhanced?</i></li> <li>• <i>What further actions are required from the national and other intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to develop the capacity of women to serve as active agents for sustaining peace and sustainable development?</i></li> </ul>	
10:30 – 11:00 am	<b>Tea Break</b>	
11:00 – 12:30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Dialogue Session 6:</u></b></p> <p><b>Engaging Youth in Sustainable Peace &amp; Sustainable Development</b>  <i>Youth make up for a large percentage of Western Province’s population. Unemployment and marginalised youths are often vulnerable and could potentially engage in anti-social behaviour if they are not meaningfully engaged in their community. Based on the 2009 census, youths made up 54% of Western Province population. There is generally, an increasing concern about the number of youth who leave school without ‘work ready’ skills; the limited availability of youth vocational training opportunities; and the rise of delinquency as well as alcohol and drug related problems. It is therefore important that youths are engaged in the processes of socio-economic development and in building sustainable peace. This session will discuss how youth can be best engaged for these purposes.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the current mechanisms to facilitate the participation of youth in sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts at the national, provincial and community levels?</i></li> <li>• <i>What challenges do they face in this regard and how can they be addressed effectively?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can their participation in these critical activities be better appreciated and enhanced?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can their participation help improve coherence in achieving sustainable peace and development at the national and provincial level?</i></li> <li>• <i>What further action is required from the national and other intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to develop the capacity of youth to serve as active agents of sustaining peace and sustainable development?</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Ms Ethel Sigimanu, PS, MWYCFA</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Mr. Andre Tipoki/Mr. Raynick. Jack; Ms. Rose Maebiru, Country Director for Youth@Work program, South Pacific Community; Mr. Hika Gone, Director Youth@Work W/Province</p> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> Mr. Henry Zimbo, Provincial Advisor, WP. Ms. Sandra Barrows, UNDP</p>
12:30 – 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1:30 – 3:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Dialogue Session 7:</u></b></p> <p><b>Resourcing Peace and Security for sustainable Development</b></p> <p><i>The responsibility for Sustaining Peace is shared by the government, civil society and other stakeholders. This means that the approaches utilized to ensure security and peace is sustained must ensure that the needs of all segments of society including women, youth and other vulnerable members of the community are considered. Resourcing peace, security and crime prevention for sustainable development is critical and as such, requires a combined effort of the government, donors and other stakeholders. It calls on all partners that are promoting peace, security and crime prevention to create an enabling environment for mobilizing community support. There is a growing recognition that peace, security and crime prevention are fundamental to facilitate socio-economic development. This session will outline the security arrangements after RAMSI leaves the country. It will outline how the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and other national stakeholders will be assuming the role of policing, crime prevention and national security. It will further highlight how this arrangement will be resourced in the long term to guarantee long term peace, safety and security for the people of Western Province.</i></p>	<p><u>Chair:</u> Deputy Primer, Honourable Maloney Lopoto,</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u> Mr. Masi Lomaloma, Assistant Special Coordinator, RAMSI. Mr Mathew Varley, Commissioner, RSIP. Mr. Gabriel Manelusi, Deputy Commissioner Royal Solomon Island Police Force. Mr. Peter Kenilorea (Jnr) PS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs &amp; External Trade</p>

	<p><i>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What strategies and mechanisms have been agreed or is likely to be put in place by the national government and donors to oversee the security and crime prevention efforts to sustain peace and stability after RAMSI's departure?</i></li> <li>• <i>What roles are there for the community, civil society, churches, traditional leaders/elders and the private sector to support security, safety and crime prevention and reduction in the province and country?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are some of the challenges and opportunities for engaging multiple stakeholders in security and crime prevention to sustain peace and stability?</i></li> <li>• </li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Rapporteur:</u></b> Ms Margaret Qoloni Etua, <i>US, Admin, MNURP.</i> Ms Regina Lepping, <i>Youth Representative.</i></p>
3:00 – 3:30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>	
3:30– 4:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Dialogue Session 7:</u></b></p> <p><b>Promoting Sustainable Development through Anti-corruption and the Rule of Law</b></p> <p><i>This session will examine the relationship between corruption, conflict and sustainable development and different measures proposed and/or presently put in place to address corruption in Solomon. The question on how ordinary citizens can stand against oppression, injustice and abuse without resorting to violence is an important one that must be discussed. Recently, the people of Western Province have been paying increasing interest and attention to corruption and how to control it. Apparently, the Solomon Islands Government, donors and professionals have all realized that corruption is costing the people of this country millions of wasted resources especially during and the aftermath of the Solomon Islands conflict. This has prevented sustainable growth and accelerated development. The alleged diversion of state resources by state officials and leaders for their personal gain, only turns back the clock on social and economic development.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What is the current government's plan to address bad governance and corruption through the anti-corruption strategy?</i></li> <li>• <i>What anti-corruption framework is currently in place in Solomon Islands to curb the increasing negative impacts of corruption in the public and private sector?</i></li> <li>• <i>What roles are there for the provincial government and community leaders and citizens to address corruption?</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Mr Paul Dryden, <i>Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission.</i></p> <p><b><u>Panellists:</u></b> Ms. Ruth Liloqula, <i>CEO, TISI.</i> Mr. Mose Saitala, <i>CTA, OPMC</i></p> <p><b><u>Rapporteur:</u></b> Mr. Ruben Lilo, <i>Director for Peace and Reconciliation, MNURP</i> Brian Lenga, <i>UNDP</i></p>
4:30 – 5:30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Dialogue session 9:</u></b></p> <p><b>The Alternative Future for Western Province? The Way Forward</b></p> <p><i>Western Province is one of the rich resource-based province and whose potentials could be developed for the benefit of the province and the country. The untapped potentials in various sector are enormous and could be further exploited for purposes of building peace and sustainable development. However, promoting sustainable development requires building inclusive and peaceful communities in Western Province. This would mean providing an enabling environment for resource owners to participate in the whole development process. This session will examine the various potentials of the province with specific reference to developing a long-term VISION 2035 Development Strategy, and how this strategy could be employed to fully unlock the potentials for inclusive growth in the province. In so doing, the Province anticipates to convene an Economic and Development Cooperation Forum this year, 2017 to unlock the future economic and development potentials of Western Province through the development of a long-term development of this blueprint.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will be guided by the following questions:</i></p>	<p><b><u>Chair:</u></b> Mr. Henry Zimbo, <i>Provincial Advisor, WP.</i></p> <p><b><u>Panellists:</u></b> Mr. Warren Paia, <i>PS, Fundamental Reform, OPMC</i> Mr. Ruben Lilo, <i>MNURP</i> Hon. S. Lilo, <i>MPA</i> Hon. Wayne Maepioh, <i>Primer, WPG.</i></p> <p><b><u>Rapporteur:</u></b> Ms Margaret Qoloni Etua, <i>US, Admin, MNURP.</i> Ms. Sandra Barrows, <i>UNDP</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How is Western Province performing in terms of economic, social and political Governance compared to other provinces in the last 30 years?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are the key development opportunities Western Province need to unlock to realize its potentials through sustaining peace and accelerating development?</i></li> <li>• <i>Shall we agree to adopt the recommendations emanating from this dialogue to address the thematic issues, challenges and opportunities discussed over the past two days?</i></li> </ul>	
5:30- 5:45 pm	<b>Acknowledgement</b> Hon. Wayne Maepioh, <i>Western Provincial Government</i> Mr. Margaret Qoloni Etua, PS, <i>Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace</i> Ms. Azusa Kubota, <i>UNDP Country Manager and Head of UNJPO, Solomon Islands</i>	
5:45PM	<b>Closing prayer</b> Pr. Clifton Mark - End of Day 2 – End of Dialogue	