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Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs (MWYCFA)

In partnership with

UN WOMEN

National Youth Dialogue - February 27-March 1st 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

Compiled by Research, Policy, Planning & Information Division TEAM -MWYCFA



VENUE: HERITAGE PARK HOTEL, HONIARA

INTRODUCTION

The youth dialogue was organized by Youth development division (YDD)-MWYCFA & UNDP-UN WOMEN on February 27th–1st March 2017 at the Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara. This National Youth dialogue is the segment of the consultation process to seek Provincial youth leaders and young women's' input to the proposed 3-tier policy framework for youth development in Solomon Islands. The 3-tier policy consist of 1.) National Youth Policy, 2) the National Youth Framework and 3) the Youth Employment Strategy. The need of this youth summit/dialogue was raised during the first Multi-sectorial consultation convened by (YDD) of the MWYCFA the year before at Honiara on 17-21 October 2016. Representatives at this consultation workshop were Provincial Youth leaders, Young women and other nominated provincial Youth council reps who shared experiences/challenges, exchange ideas and shared inputs and appropriate approaches to be incorporated into the proposed 3-tier policy framework.

PURPOSE OF THE DIALOGUE

- To consult provincial youth leaders and young women during the review of the national youth policy so they do feel the ownership over the policy when it comes to implementation
- To seek their inputs to the proposed 3-tier Policy Framework for youth development in Solomon Islands

DAY ONE OF PROVINCIAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

The day 1 of the consultation workshop begins with the opening ceremony where Director of Youth Mr Andre Tipoki (Chair) welcomed the participants followed with the key note address from the MWYCFA Permanent Secretary Ms Ethel Sigimanu.

The permanent secretary highlighted the key issues affecting young people in the Solomon Island and that the issues are cross cutting and requires multi- sectoral planning in its approach in tackling these issues. As such it is important that young women and youths are given the opportunity to engage in the process of developing policy that will impact on their live. She stress that engaging youth in this process is way of hearing their views so that they can be part of the solution to issues that affects their lives. The Permanent Secretary further urges everyone to work collectively and in a partnership to recognizes the value of what each one does, to create an enabling environment that allows our young people to prosper without hindrances that create obstacles in the way of their development. And she call for action at all levels to work towards youth development in the country. In concluding her speech, she announced the official opening of the program for the 3 days youth dialogue /summit.

After the opening ceremony, the key facilitator of the consultation Dr Jimmy Rodgers gave a presentation on the current situation of youth in the Solomon Islands. Some of the key challenges of young people and women that he listed are;

- Youth partners not working coherently. Funds were available but with limited impact on youth
- access to quality health
- Benefit of development have not filtered into rural communities
- Gender issues
- Limited access to financial resources
- Banks requires collateral and not many young people have it.
- limited employment
- Education curricula-does not help students to acquire entrepreneurial skills
- Health-mental health, drugs, substance abuse, non-communicable disease

- Increasing prevalence of social behavior
- parental upbringings
- lack of facilities for youth
- Inclusion of youth with disabilities

In addressing the above challenges, Dr Rodgers stated clearly that Policies should be coherent, and compliments each other. It should be a policy that can link to internal and external sectors were all become partners in its implementation and across all ministries and sectors. He strongly emphasis that Solomon Island has a growing population and according to reliable statistics the total population of SI will reach 1.3 million in 2050. Currently the youth population of Solomon Island is around 116,000 and by 2050 the youth population will be 252,000 which means more than double the current youth population. He reiterate the importance of collectively plan for the growing youthful population that the country faces. He then poses some very crucial questions to the participants as, **what future do we want for our young people and how to get there.**

The day continued on with few presentations from stakeholders namely UNDP, UN women, WDD/MWYCFA and RSIP/RAMSI. The rationale behind these presentations is to translate global goals/priority on women & youth at the regional and country level.

1. UNDP presentation

- UN mandate is to promote global agenda/goals examples; fighting poverty, conflict prevention/peace building, Gender equality, Youth participation and partnership.
- And translating these global agendas by supporting priority programs for youth and women in the country
- UNDP also advocates for young people agenda and encourages youth to have ambitious vision
- UNDP supports efforts that listen to the voice of youth, particularly ensuring young peoples' view in policy and strategies are promoted and adhered to.

2. UN Women presentation

- Gave an overview of how the agency global priorities are being translated into women and youth at regional and country level
- Mandate is to address issues affecting women around the world
- Shared issues affecting women-high rate of sexual violence, low representation of women in parliament, and women facing cultural , economic and systemic barriers to participating fully in their communities
- Some in country programs- market for change, UN-SIG joint program on EVAW & Grantees, Humanitarian and peace building programs at national and community levels

3. RSIPF/ RAMSI presentation

- Mainly touched on RAMSI Drawdown and Post – RAMSI Arrangements
- Drawdown will end in June 2017
- Gave a background information on RAMSI in the Solomon Island
- RAMSI role- assisting RSIPF in strengthening their capacity and further developing them as a modern, effective and self-reliant police force
- RAMSI special coordinator stated their confidence in the local force to resume full responsibility in maintaining peace and security after RAMSI leaves
- Special Secretary to RAMSI Mr John Wasi emphasize the importance of the work of RAMSI in the country
- John Wasi concluded by saying that Issues of Solomon are our problems that could only be addressed by Solomon islanders, RAMSI's are here only to assist.

- Mr Wasi concluded that security and law is every body's business and that everyone should work closely and support the police in carrying out their duty.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Day one is incorporated with a plenary discussion where UNDP consultant Dr Anouk Ride ask the participants to go into groups to discuss youth challenges with regard to Livelihood and Employment, Politics and Youth Participation. Here are some of the points raised by the participants:

- Reform education system to link students with job and business opportunities
- Recognizing and increasing help for mental health eg. Information & counselling services
- There is a miss-match of skill labor in the country
- Government need to offer scholarship that based on job opportunities available in the country
- Education curricula be changed to provide space and prepare students for entrepreneur skills in mid primary and in secondary school
- Young people should be recognized at all levels to coordinate other developments programs
- Counselling health centers be provided for affected young people

DAY TWO OF PROVINCIAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

The second day started with presentations from government ministries on entrepreneurial opportunities for women and youths in other government sectors.

Ministry of Culture and Tourism entrepreneurial opportunities – Culture Division

- Culture industries is one market avenue which involves marketing of cultural products/ artifacts such as carvings, shell money, island styles clothing, bags, purses etc
- Another area would be entrepreneurship and branding eg coconut oil production
- Intellectual Property & Protection (IP) another potential area for youth to explore as an IP office is soon to be established in the country- to protect people's right over property /products they originally initiated.

Ministry of Culture and Tourism entrepreneurial opportunities – Tourism Division

- Tourism industry promotes labor intensity that is, it encourages both skilled and unskilled workers. A great opportunity for women and young people
- Unskilled-workers in tourism industry eg. Waiter, Gardner, cook/kitchen help, barmaid, etc.
- Skilled-workers in tourism industry eg. managers, chefs, supervisor, trainers
- Women and young people can either involve directly or indirectly in the industry. An example would be working in partnership with primary industries such as Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of fisheries to meet the needs of the tourism industry and to close the gap through innovation, creativity and sustainable ways

Ministry of Commerce, Labor industry and Immigration entrepreneurial opportunities – Commerce Division

- Micro Small, Medium Enterprise Business Loan (MSMEBL) can be accessed by women and young people. The scheme is a commitment of the government to provide financial support for the extension of financial capital to business in rural areas
- The MSMEBL is a credit guarantee scheme

After the presentation some of the concern raised by youth participants is the scheme does not benefit the youth and be easily accessed. A suggestion raised by youth is the development of similar but alternative mechanism for financial institution to support Youth credit business scheme that is workable for them. One possible potential is Youth credit scheme.

THE 3-TIER POLICY - (1) NEW NYP, (2) NEW FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN SI & (3) YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

The lead facilitator Dr Jimmy Rodgers on the second day of the consultation workshop gave more in-depth presentation on the 3 tier policy framework for youth development in Solomon Island.

He explain the 3 tiers separately, that the first tier is the National Youth Policy which will remain the overarching document to guide youth development in SI. It will provide the vision, the mission, the values and the objectives of the Policy. The second tier is the New Framework for youth development in SI. The framework will support the National youth policy. It is the operational level of documents that provides basis to translate and transforms the Policy objectives into functioning areas that could then be packaged into implementation strategies. And the third tier is the Youth Employment Strategy (YES), it will be one of a few specific policy areas for implementation.

Dr Rodgers in his presentation pointed what is different between the current NYP 2010-2015 and the New Proposed NYP. That the current NYP is a two part document that comprise of the policy and the strategic plan of action. And it has 6 priority outcomes; 1.) Youth and career pathway, 2.) Youth and Governance, 3.) Youth and wellbeing, 4.) Youth and peacebuilding, 5.) Youth and sustainable development and 6.) Youth and mainstreaming

SUCSESSES, SHORTFALLS & LESSON LEARNT IN IMPLEMENTING NYP & SAP 2010-2015

Summary findings on the implementation of NYP 2010-2015

Success	Shortfalls	Lessons Learnt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> capacity building, trainings, leadership, mentoring, community policing awareness have been conducted targeting young people in the country Employment Skills trainings, livelihood project and other income generating activities being provided by CSOs and NGOs, Faith based organization Continues funding support towards Youth and Sabbath Sunday School Rallies funding towards Annual International Youth Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> less implementation with the more focus on first and second priority outcomes less programs implemented in remote provinces lack capacity to coordinate programs, insufficient funding, geographical challenge in terms of logistics, poor policy coherence, Inadequate monitoring and evaluation etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the need to equally implement all policy priority outcomes, Implementation must be done in all provinces. Conduct capacity building trainings for stakeholders to implement the policy more effectively. Greater efforts to be invested to garner more support for policy implementation and support to youths at different levels throughout the country so young people can see tangible benefits.

celebration that engage the youths with leadership roles		
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KEY CHALLENGES HIGH LIGHTED DURING THE YOUTH MULTI-SECTORIAL WORKSHOP IN 2016

Dr. Rodgers also highlighted the key challenges drawn from the multi-sectoral consultation workshop last year and listed as follows;

- Limited employment opportunities – 80% unemployment – ILO,
- Education Curricula - not fit for purpose, does not help students acquire entrepreneurial skills [70% : 30% phenomenon],
- Health - including mental health problems, drugs and substance abuse, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy, and NCDs. About 70% of all deaths and morbidity in Solomon Islands are due to NCDs, and 70% of all NCDs start during adolescents and youth.
- Social behavior, national identity, diversity and rural and urban challenges.
- Parental upbringing,
- Lack of facilities for youth,
- Inclusion of people living with disabilities,
- Lack of human and financial resources will continue to have negative impacts on programme delivery,
- Poor coordination contributed to poor implementation of the 2010 – 2015 NYP and SAP.
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) mechanism and Governance mechanism.

IMPORTANCE OF POLICY COHERENCE & LINKING TO NDS AND HIERARCHY OF OTHER POLICY FRAMEWORKS

Policy coherence is a strong emphasis during this youth dialogue. Dr. Jimmie Rodgers stresses the importance of linking the policies starting at top National Development strategy to ministerial policy level. All government ministries, churches, faith-based organization, CSOs and NGOs need work together to enhance policy coherence across all sectors for broader ownership and effective implementation. Examples of where policy coherence well fit in Reference to youth in other sector policies / strategy were also highlighted.

KEY PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING THE POLICY FRAMEWORKS

The key principles underpinning the 3 tier policy framework as presented by Dr Jodgers are:

- 1) Asset-Based / Strength-Based approach,
- 2) Evidence-based approach - Strengthen evidence-based decision-making through research and quality data,
- 3) Rights-based approach,
- 4) Ownership and active participation,
- 5) Partnerships and cooperation
- 6) Sustainability,
- 7) Innovation & Technology,
- 8) Visionary, ethical, transformative leadership,
- 9) Good Governance and
- 10) Leave no one behind: Diversity and inclusiveness.

FOCUS AREAS OF NEW YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY (YES)

In highlighting the proposed and focused area for Youth Employment Strategy Dr Rodgers briefly outline the following:

- At the National Level- there are existing employment opportunities in the country that are available for both qualified and potential young people. This includes having formal employment in Public Sector, Private Sector, Civil Society Sector FBOs, CBOs, NGOs, Self-employed, Entrepreneurs – economic & social and Youth Volunteerism / Ambassadors.
- At international levels, there are labour mobility reform programs/potential outside markets where SI can be tapped in, in terms of employment opportunity. This includes Seasonal worker, Pacific category visas, Pacific care giver program and entry into new labour market.

He made mention of these as important considerations to think about as part of the employment strategy.

MAKING THE POLICY WORK: IMPLEMENTATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

There's this presentation made by facilitator Dr. Jimmie on current structure of NYP coordination and monitoring framework. Several questions were raised throughout the session basically on implementation and governance as how do we make policy that makes an enabling environment? How do we put in place mechanism that is realistic for implementation so young people can see tangible benefits. On the same note, PS MWYCFM-Mrs. Sigimanu requested the Director and facilitator Dr. Jimmie to present to the participants what works well and that does not work well in the current structure of national Youth policy coordination monitoring framework, so they can have a bigger picture of it.

In response, Dr Rodgers pointed out the followings;

- I. Channel of information from provincial level up to Central government does not work well
- II. Coordination role comes under PYC, but since no resource, there's no implementation and
- III. National steering committee-does not work, they never meet since the revised policy developed.

Thus Suggestion made by multi-sectorial-committee members to take on board the responsibility of National steering committee instead of PSs of various Ministries.

DAY THREE OF PROVINCIAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

GROUP DISCUSSION

The third day session begins with group discussion. Each of the Groups were given respective focus area of the 3 tier policy to deliberate on. The focus area are:

- a. Underpinning principle of the new policy framework (Group 1)
 - Agree that these principles are key essential to success that will help to engage all partners in the implementation
 - All of the ten principles would be relevant, hold everyone accountable and inclusive at all levels, thus must be adopted
 - Recommendation - strengthening existing networks as youth councils and establishment of provincial youth centers in all provinces as well as nation center so young people can be provided with information to equip themselves to make informed decisions.
 - Recommendation- Strength base approach should also be suited to SI context.
- b. Priority Policy Outcomes (Group 2)

- Proposed priority outcome are all relevant and not to be supplanted or detached
- Recommendation-time frame need to be extended and -make the outcomes to be more realistic
- Recommendation - trim down the 6 priorities to be less.

c. Framework (Group 3)

- Emphasis that the proposed framework look much better than the policy itself and to be maintained
- ensure inclusiveness and to have ownership of 3-tier policy framework or youth initiatives,
- it is very important that all partners be consulted in the process of developing the framework

d. Employment Strategy (Group 4)

- They made suggestion to replace the word “every Solomon Island youth” with “all citizens’ ‘making it more comprehensive
- Consider Advisory support services,
- Access to startup capital- grants/loan (how do we make enabling environment that is workable for youth given strict collateral security requirement by bank?)
- Commodity chain pathways to enable- ‘farm to table’, ‘farm to market’, farm to export opportunities, (Hub Youth Centre market)
- Role of governments/private sector (logistics, social responsibility, capital)/ financing,
- Capacity building, skills training,
- Legal and fiscal reforms
- Monitoring/evaluation/ sustainability
- Self-employed (Youth credit scheme), accessibility,
- volunteerism scheme (safety, welfare to be consider),
- Youth to have youth center markets,
- Employment opportunity must be legal,
- Provide special training and volunteer scheme to be recognized in the pacific and by Government
- It is very important that all of these needs be considered to make this YES workable for youth development in the country

e. Governance Arrangement (Group 5)

- National Steering Committee (NSC) to be chaired by undersecretary of Ministry of women, youth, children and family affair
- Terms of Reference (TOR) need to be in place
- Engaging donor partner to be included in the steering committee rather than Government ministries themselves to be represented in the committee.
- For National Youth Stakeholders coordination & monitoring Committee, develop TOR and adopt memorandum of understanding.
- Emphasize rotation of chair which means all can share the responsibility as chair and the duty has to be to rotate among the committee members.
- For National Youth Congress, the transition need to be complete before the launching of this documents, composition should have president on NYC board,
- Revitalizing of National Youth Congress,
- Clear roles and responsibilities of national youth congress, Provincial Youth Council, provincial desk officers, Ward Youth Committee so they have a clear picture of their roles and responsibilities.

f. Implementation (Group 6)

- that implementation process of this 3 –tier policy framework at all levels is what matters here
- therefore adopting memorandum of understanding between the main line ministries, Ministry of women, youth, children and family affair, provincial government, Ministry of Rural development and Ministry of Home affairs
- Strengthening the existing structure and networks to make it work, besides there is also strong emphasis on lack of support from provincial government and youth council to coordinate youth development programs in the province.
- There should be effective networking and proper coordination in place for the implementation of the new framework. More importantly Monitoring and evaluation to be carried out effectively after every two years to ensure sustainability of youth programs/projects.

CHALLENGES, SHORTFALLS and LESSONS LEARNED AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL.

The facilitator called on the provincial youth representatives to comment on implementation related challenges, shortfalls lessons and what learned at the provincial level.

CHALLENGES,	SHORTFALLS	LESSONS LEARNED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Almost all provinces highlighted the similar experiences as lack of funds, weak existing youth council, lack of provincial Government executive’s support to youth programs, lack manpower to coordinate youth programs initiatives in provinces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The incentives to drive provincial youth council committee members actively participate and to coordinate youth program effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A representative of western province come up with idea of translating policies into the provincial ordinances to work well. ▪ A youth Rep from Isabel reported on their work. She stated that regardless of inadequate funds to implement, Isabel youth programs were fully implement supported by church groups, cultural/community leaders and youth leaders and encouraged collaboration as important aspect here.

NYC WAY FORWARD

As a way forward in implementing the 3 tier policy the NYC needs to be strengthen in its capacity to carry out its mandate. As such an activity was conducted by the lead facilitator Dr Rodgers. During this activity the

provincial desk officers and well as provincial youth presidents were asked to give their views. And all seem to have one clear message and that is the need to strengthen the National Youth Congress so that work between the ministry of women, youth, children and family affairs may run smoothly as well as Youth councils to better coordinate youth policies, action plans and programs for implementation in the provinces.

CLOSURE OF THE YOUTH DIALOGUE

Before the final closing remarks, the UN women representative thanked all participants for their involvement in the 3 days youth dialogue. She also acknowledged the facilitator and the MWYCFA for leading the program and expressed the importance of creating such dialogue to enhance further discussions on youth and women issues and development in the country. She stress the importance of varies roles to be played by all after the policy launched. She concluded by emphasizing the need for UN women to work on where in the policy they can taped in so they can be part of implementation phase once the policy finally launched.

Director of Youth Development Division/MWYCFA Mr Andre Tipoki makes the closing remarks. he expressed young people as the most powerful tool for positive change in the country and so organizing such platforms that is inclusive as such is very important. This will feed young leaders and partners with information that would improve their capacity in implementing the policy framework and to further discuss youth agendas in the country so young people can see tangible benefits.

ANNEX

Annex A: Summary Agenda			
National Dialogue with Young Women and Provincial Youth Leaders to seek inputs to the National Youth Policy (NYP), Framework for Youth Development (FYD) and Youth Employment Strategy (YES),			
27 February – 1 March 2017. Venue – Heritage Park Hotel Conference Room			
Time	Monday 27 February	Tuesday 28 February	Wednesday 1 March
0830 – 10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Opening • Adoption of Dialogue Agenda. • Setting the Scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key Challenges facing women and youths in Solomon Islands ○ Addressing the challenges and priorities of women and youth in Solomon Islands 	<p><i>Entrepreneurial opportunities for women and youths - In other government sectors - presentations from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and Commerce – Min. of Commerce, Labour, Industry and Immigration • Tourism - Min. of Culture and Tourism • Cultural Industries – Min. of Culture and Tourism • Agriculture – Min. of Agriculture and Livestock • Discussions 	<p><i>Working Groups on the (i) proposed NY, (ii) proposed Framework for Youth Development and (iii) Proposed Youth Employment Strategy to enable more in-depth focus group discussions and feedback on the 3-tier policy framework on youth development in S. Islands</i></p> <p>WGs will be organised to consider each of the 3 documents; Implementation arrangements including considering the national youth congress, provincial youth councils; constituency / ward committees and governance arrangements,</p>
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea		
11.00 – 12.30	<p><i>Translating global goals / priorities on women & youths at regional and country levels - with a focus of UN supported women and youth programs in S. Islands - UN Women, UNDP including involving / engaging youths in peace building & good citizenship with MNURP</i></p> <p><i>Taking the 'Women and development' agenda further - Key priorities and initiatives for WDD in 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Plenary discussions and feedback</i></p>	<p><i>The 3- Tier Policy framework for development in Solomon Islands.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rationale & Background ○ Rapid assessment of the 2010-2015 NYP ○ Principles underpinning the Policy frameworks • Presentation and general discussion of the key components of the proposed National Youth Policy 	<p><i>Plenary and Reporting Back from the working group session to agree on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key messages to be incorporated into the 3 documents ○ Optimum financing /implementation arrangements ○ Optimum governance and fiduciary arrangements ○ Performance framework – M& E <p>Close of Dialogue</p>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch		
13.30 – 15.00	<p><i>Taking Stock of the 'State of Youth in Solomon Islands'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of a 'Literature Review Report on the State of Youth in Solomon Islands' • Discussions of the Report findings / conclusions and recommendations 	<p><i>The 3- Tier Policy framework for development in Solomon Islands (Cont'd)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and general discussion of the key components of the proposed Strategic Framework for Youth Development in Solomon Islands National Youth Policy 	<p>Half Day Workshop for Delegates from National Youth Congress, Provincial Youth Councils and National & Provincial Youth Coordinators</p> <p>Recap on:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and general discussion on the key components of the proposed new National Youth employment strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lessons from the review of the 2010 – 2015 NYP / SAP 2. Intent and proposed direction of the new 3-tier policy framework
15.00 – 15.30	Afternoon Tea		
15.30 – 17.00	<p><i>RAMSI drawdown and post-RAMSI arrangements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by SIG, RSIPF and RAMSI • Discussions and feedback 	<p><i>Key Enabling Initiatives and Governance Mechanisms</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Entrepreneurship Council • Youth – to – Youth Radio Broadcast Station • Linking NYP & Framework to Provincial Implementation Strategies of the NYP • Linking government (central & provincial) with the NYC, PYC, FBO, NGO, CSO, CMO mechanisms to enhance implementation • Financing mechanisms • Governance mechanism & Performance Framework • Communication Strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Diagnosis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why implementation of current NYP / Provincial Youth policies did not work well? • What needs to change to ensure the new policy frameworks will work better? – Includ governance, strategic, operational, political buy-in, buy-l from other sectors inside and outside of government, human & financial resources, performance framework 4. Prescriptions / Suggestions to ensure new policy framework are more successfully implemented.

ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS INVITED

Nos	Group Invited	Invitees
1	Provinces (all)	<p><u>Choiseul</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women reps</p> <p>1 x Youth Council President (Arnold)</p> <p>1 x Provincial Youth Coordinator (John Zinga)</p> <p><u>Western</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council President (Troy Apusae)</p> <p>1 x Provincial Youth Coordinator (Maena Nasario)</p> <p><u>Central</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council President (Richard Sapia)</p> <p>1 x Youth coordinator (George Sasi)</p> <p><u>Honiara City</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council President (Harry James)</p> <p>1 x Youth Coordinator (Mary Tuhaika)</p> <p><u>Makira</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council President (Stanley Siapu Jr)</p> <p>1 x Youth Coordinator (Mavin)</p> <p><u>Temotu</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council Rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Coordinator</p> <p><u>Renbel</u></p> <p>1 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council President (Aldrine Gukuna)</p>

		<p>1 x Youth Coordinator</p> <p><u>Malaita</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council President (Thomas Hardy)</p> <p>1 x Youth Coordinator</p> <p><u>Guadalcanal</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Coordinator (James Laisa)</p> <p><u>Isabel</u></p> <p>2 x Young Women rep</p> <p>1 x Youth Council President (Cecil Legua)</p> <p>1 x Youth Coordinator (Edward Tandarea)</p>
2	Churches (Honiara based)	1 young women rep from each of the main churches in Honiara
3	Govt, Civil Society Organisations, Non-governmental Organisations and community-based Organisations in Honiara	1 young women rep from each women organizations (Young Parliamentary Women, Group, Voice blo Mere, YWCA, National Council of Women, Development Services Exchange, etc.

PRESS RELEASE

UN Supports National Young Women and Youth Leaders Dialogue

23 February, 2017 (Honiara, Solomon Islands)

UN Women and UNDP, through the United Nations Peace Building Fund (UN PBF), are supporting the National Dialogue with Young Women and Provincial Youth Leaders next week 27 February – 1 March 2017.

The three-day event led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) has invited young women from across the country to seek their valuable input to the National Youth Policy, Framework for Youth Development and the Youth Employment Strategy. It will also provide space and opportunity for young women to contribute to discussions and policy formulation on national programmes.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has a vision for transforming global development over the next fifteen years to build a more peaceful, prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive future. The Agenda asserts that young women and men are critical agents of change, and are central to achieving sustainable development.

Young people are able to create significant transformations that change political, economic and social foundations and drive new dynamics in the inclusion and empowerment of young women.

Mr Andre Tipoki, Director of the Youth Development Division celebrates that Solomon Islands is a youthful nation with nearly 30 percent of the population aged between 15-29 years. In recognizing this he stressed the opportunities and limitations that youth currently experience emphasising the necessity to harmonise the implementation of policy to address issues facing our young women. There is commitment to promoting both women and young women's full participation in leadership and development.

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 young women's representatives and policy makers from all provinces to provide real input and for the government to explain their priorities.

UN Women is committed to supporting young women in the Pacific to actively engage in decision making, promoting participation and gender equality.

The workshop aims to complete development of a new 3-tier policy framework for youth development in Solomon Islands that succeeds the 2010 – 2015 national Youth Policy and provide recommendations on increasing young women participation in Solomon Islands.

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

END

The National Young Women’s Dialogue will be held Monday 27 February – Wednesday 1 March 2017 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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UN says youths drive 17 SDGs

Development in Solomon Islands (SFYD) Employment Strategy (NYES) in Solomon



SI benefits much from Taiwan friendship

BY LYNTON AARON FILIA

SOLOMON Islands and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have been strong allies for 34 years.

This relationship has seen countless communities in Solomon Islands benefit throughout the period of friendship.

Despite the recent controversy in the national Government and the Republic of China's (Taiwan) relationship regarding its operation in the country, the 34 years of friendship has seen ground-breaking development—both national and community level.

The Taiwan Embassy in Solomon Islands values the support and friendship, and Taiwan has even announced that Solomon Islands is one of its staunchest diplomatic allies.

Over the decades, Solomon Islands has experienced ROC's assistance through agriculture, health, education, vocational training and many other areas in terms of community development.

A statement released from the Embassy of the ROC (Taiwan) highlights they supported Solomon Islands as a genuine friend similar to other donor partners helping SIG achieve its goals.

"As a genuine friend of Solomon Islands, the

government of Taiwan has joined other donors to help Solomon Islands Government achieve its development goals," according to Taiwan's statement.

Over the years, Taiwan has registered strong relationship with Solomon Islands through transition of Government to date which its aid are budgeted by SIG as part of their annual expenditure.

"As a result of mutual consultation between the two governments, Taiwan's aid has been budgeted by the SIG's as part of its annual expenditure and has no also been conducted in a transparent manner.

"Not only its periodical disbursements have been carried out with public announcement and channelled to the account of the SIG, but acquittal reports are also a prerequisite for the release of subsequent tranches," Taiwan statement said.

In terms of country's development goals, Taiwan Embassy in Solomon Islands stresses they are excited to support Solomon Islands in a respectable manner, by not to involve in its decision making.

They explain that Taiwan respects the priority set forth by the SIG and stands ready to work together with the SIG and Solomon Islanders to further enhance achievement its limited resource can make.

The Head of the United Nation Joint Presence in Solomon Islands, Ms Azusa Kubota shares information about UN during National Youth Conference.

WOMEN/HEALTH

UN supports national young women and youth leaders dialogue

UN Women and UNDP, through the United Nations Peace Building Fund (UN PBF), are supporting the National Dialogue with Young Women and Provincial Youth Leaders next week February 27 - March 1, 2017.

The three-day event led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCA) has invited young women from across the country to seek their valuable input to the National Youth Policy, Framework for Youth Development and the Youth Employment Strategy.

It will also provide space and opportunity for young women to contribute to discussions and policy formulation on national programmes.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

has a vision for transforming global development over the next fifteen years to build a more peaceful, prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive future.

The Agenda asserts that young women and men are critical agents of change, and are central to achieving sustainable development.

Young people are able to create significant transformations that change political, economic and social foundations and drive new dynamics in the inclusion and empowerment of young women.

Mr. Andre Tipoki, Director of the Youth Development Division celebrates that Solomon Islands is a youthful nation with nearly 30 percent of the population aged between 15-29 years.

In recognising this he stressed the opportunities and limitations that youth currently experience emphasising the necessity to harmonise the implementation of policy to address issues facing our young women.

There is commitment to promoting both women and young women's full participation in leadership and development.

Alvina Erekaali, 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 young women's representatives and policy makers from all provinces to provide real input and for the government to explain their priorities.

UN Women is committed to supporting young women in the Pacific to actively engage in decision making, promoting participation and gender equality.

The workshop aims to complete development of a new 3-tier policy framework for youth development in Solomon Islands that succeeds the 2010 - 2015 national Youth Policy and provide recommendations on increasing young women participation in Solomon Islands.

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

—UN WOMEN & UNDP JOINT PRESS

Could nostalgia make smokers quit



Childhood nostalgia may encourage quitting more than current anti-smoking campaigns

REMINING smokers of childhood memories could inspire them to quit, research reveals.

Tugging at smokers' heartstrings may encourage them to ditch the habit more than

Life expectancy to increase across the world by 2030: Many will live into their 90s, scientists predict

AVERAGE life expectancy will soar into the 90s in many parts of the world in a decade, a study predicts.

Despite scientists once thinking living for this long was



