



Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Rio +20: Important issues for Pacific Island women

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Pacific Islands Forum Leaders have acknowledged the importance of gender equality through the Pacific Plan and in various Forum Communiqués. The purpose of this brief is to draw the attention of Pacific delegates attending the Rio +20 conference to the importance of gender equality and to ensure contributions to the global sustainable development agenda and negotiations take into consideration gender equality commitments made at the regional and international levels. It is recommended the gender specific information contained in this brief be used by representatives of member countries in their own national statements, country interventions and in various other high-level meetings running in parallel with the Rio +20 Summit.

Background

With delegates from around the world converging on Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to set a new global agenda for sustainable development, it is worth recalling regional and international commitments to gender equality, which are critical for achieving sustainable development in Pacific Island countries and territories. Gender equality is highlighted as a cross-cutting strategic objective in the Pacific Plan and is recognised as a critical issue to achieving sustainable development outcomes for the region. The Pacific Plan is based on five broad themes. These include fostering economic development and promoting opportunities for broad-based growth; improving livelihoods and the well-being of Pacific peoples; addressing the impacts of climate change; achieving stronger national development through better governance; and ensuring improved social, political and legal conditions for stability, safety and security.

The themes and objectives set out in the Pacific Plan are consistent with the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development committed to by Leaders at the 1992 World Summit in Rio. The three pillars of sustainable development include environmental, social and economic sustainability. It is important that representatives of member countries attending Rio +20 insist that gender equality, human rights and women's empowerment are among the priorities for achieving sustainable development.

Gender perspective on sustainable development

The *World Summit Outcome Document* reiterated the 'interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars' of sustainable development as **economic development**, **social development** and **environmental protection**. All these aspects of sustainable development have clear gendered impacts: men and women experience poverty, social change and the degradation of natural resources differently. Those differences are influenced by their respective roles and responsibilities as well as gender inequalities. Due to cultural and social barriers, Pacific Island women continue to face biases through their exclusion from decision-making and their limited access to fundamental economic and social resources. Existing discriminatory practices increase the adverse impacts of economic, social and environmental challenges on women, consequently limiting the whole society's capacity to address those issues. Gender inequalities have a cost for the overall society and, as a consequence, are a barrier to broad-based economic development and increased resilience to environmental stresses. Thus, gender equality and women's empowerment are critical conditions for the achievement of sustainable development for future generations of Pacific Island people.

Women have a critical role to play in natural resource management and food security in the region, given their use of both land and marine resources over generations. Women possess knowledge and skills that are fundamental to sustainable resource use and food security. There is a strong and urgent need to recognise the cultural and social value of environmental resources and safeguard people's rights to use these resources. The very close relationship between culture and environmental resources should be recognised and valued and this aspect must be reflected in policies.

- Economic dimension-

Increasing poverty increasing women's burden. In the last decade, poverty has worsened in some Pacific countries, and has increased among disadvantaged groups including single

mothers, women and youth (PPA, 2004; 30). Poverty affects not only a country's economic growth but also people's well being, including health and education, their resilience to natural disasters and climate change and their capacity to adapt to socioeconomic changes. As a result poverty has the potential to disrupt peace and political stability. Deficiencies in data on poverty and on the gender dimensions of poverty hinder the capacity of Pacific Island countries and territories to comprehend the specificities of poverty. However, an estimated one-third of the region's people do not have enough income or access to subsistence production to meet basic needs¹. Those issues may affect the whole population but they have a particular impact on women, especially women living in rural areas and outer islands. The majority of women in the Pacific Island region are engaged in the informal or subsistence sector without proper recognition of their contribution, and without labour laws or legal mechanisms to protect them. Labour force discrimination, lack of property rights and deficiencies in basic infrastructure significantly impact on women's workload and their participation in the formal and informal sector. Gender responsive financing mechanisms and governance structures must be established to address different gender needs in this area.

Women's economic empowerment is one of the critical areas of the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women (PPA). Recognising the critical role women play in sustainable development, significant efforts must be made to systematically mainstream gender across all economic development and poverty alleviation programmes. In the Pacific, special measures must be put in place to reach out to and integrate women and men who live in rural and outer island areas and thus face considerable isolation. Measures to increase and consolidate food security and safeguard food sovereignty for people of the Pacific islands need to be put in place. The role of women in food production has to be recognised and supported in both agriculture and fisheries. Initiatives for the economic empowerment of women must be supported, including access to fundamental productive resources, promotion of women's land rights, social protection for women working in both the private and public sectors, and development of family-friendly workplace policies and gender-responsive labour policies.

Gender-blind macroeconomic policies may have adverse effects on women and increase gender inequalities. Throughout the region, there is very little evidence that efforts are being made in macroeconomic policies and programmes to address gender inequality issues. There is little awareness that structural adjustments, annual budgets and public and private investments

¹ AusAID. (2009). *Tracking development and governance in the Pacific*. http://www.ausaid.gov.au/hottopics/topic.cfm?ID=2727_6779_5813_3449_2537%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20

may have very different impacts on women and men and contribute to increased gender inequalities (SPC, 2010; 35).

The development of a green economy that will benefit both women and men requires gender-responsive economic policies and programmes. The development of the 'green economy' is at the heart of the updated strategy for sustainable development proposed in the draft text called ***'The Future We Want'***. The concept of the green economy is that it *'should protect and enhance the natural resource base, increase resource efficiency, promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, and move the world toward low-carbon development.'* (The Future We Want: Draft Zero; paragraph 26). This provides an interesting approach for the development of the Pacific region, but clear parameters need to be set to make sure women, especially those living in rural and outer island areas, benefit equally from this change in the economic development paradigm. To be effective, green economy strategies will need to be inclusive and gender responsive; hence they must be informed by gender analysis and the use of sex disaggregated data across a large range of development sectors including employment, food security, natural resources management and energy. This will be a good opportunity to reflect on the type of economic development we want in the Pacific Islands. In the context of Pacific Island countries and territories, we need to recognise the value of subsistence, reproductive and service work performed by women and men if we are to develop economic policies, green economy strategies and sustainable development programs that will benefit from and tap both women's and men's potential contributions.

- Social dimension -

The Pacific Platform for Action also addresses the social dimensions of sustainable development, notably through the critical areas of 'Women's access to services' and 'Women's human rights'.

Promoting gender equality through education will prepare the younger generation to address the emerging issues that Pacific Islands face. In Pacific Island countries and territories, access to education at primary and secondary levels is close to being achieved in most Polynesian and Micronesian countries, but disparities exist in Melanesian countries (SPC, 2010; 37). However, in addition to accessing education, the key issue is educational content. Education at all levels must transmit the values of equality and support people's access to employment. In the context of sustainable development, this is even more important to develop the capacities of younger generations to adapt to a changing world and address new economic

and environmental challenges. It is therefore essential to encourage both women and men to study the sciences or to develop trades in sectors that will help them contribute to building the region's resilience to these changes.

The well-being of Pacific Island people requires the development of an enabling environment for women's rights to health care services and for their reproductive and sexual rights. Healthcare services are accessible for the majority of Pacific Island people. However, several health issues remain. Water-borne diseases are still prevalent in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Federated States of Micronesia because of limited access to safe drinking water and sanitation services². (PRISM, 2009). Fertility rates remain high in the Pacific region where rates of 4 births or more per women still prevail in 9 countries or territories out of 22. In 6 countries, the teenage pregnancy rate is amongst the highest in the world. Conservative values and widespread patriarchal control over women's lives are considered major obstacles to their improved reproductive and sexual health and exercise of their rights. (Beijing + 15; 47).

Seventy-five per cent of all Pacific deaths are caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) generated by unhealthy lifestyles. Both women and men suffer from NCDs, but the impacts on their day-to-day lives may be very different since women are usually the primary caregivers for family members. This situation limits women's opportunities and capacity to get involved in productive work and affects both their physical and psychological health. Improving Pacific people's health requires a combination of measures, including acknowledging from the outset gender perspectives beyond the biological differences between women and men, including socio-cultural practices affecting people's health and their vulnerability to particular diseases and accidents. Equally important is the focus on reproductive and sexual health development and rights, which represent a major challenge in the Pacific region.

Gender-based violence has tremendous individual, social and economic costs. Safety is another important aspect of sustainable development. Unfortunately, gender-based violence is a reality for too many women living in the Pacific Island region. Studies conducted in Samoa, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, and more recently in Tonga, Fiji and Vanuatu, indicate that rates of intimate partner violence are as high as 60 to 70%. These studies document the nature and extent of sexual, physical, and emotional violence against women and girls, as well as some of the contributing factors, including customary attitudes to male/female roles, jealousy, women's increasing visibility in education and public sector posts, and the role of alcohol (SPC, 2010; 59).

² PRISM. (2009c, January 26). *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* http://www.spc.int/prism/MDG/mdg_p.htm

Inadequate laws and policies and deficiencies in their implementation have a cost not only for women and their families but for the overall society and notably the economy of a country. *'Women's legal and human rights'* are one of the critical areas of the PPA, which includes measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women. This commitment was further strengthened at the 2009 meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum where the prevalence of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in the region was recognised and promises were made to eradicate it and ensure that women enjoy equal protection under law and equal access to justice (Beijing + 15; 58).

- Environmental dimension -

Depletion of natural resources and environmental stresses do not have the same impacts on women and men. Pacific Islanders have always demonstrated strong resilience to environmental stresses. Living in fragile ecosystems in remote areas, their survival has often depended on their capacity to sustainably use their natural resources. However, population growth and overexploitation of natural resources, in combination with the adverse effects of climate change, are challenging their traditional livelihoods and well-being. Although environmental stresses such as water shortages, depletion of marine and land resources, loss of biodiversity and natural hazards are affecting everyone living in the Pacific Islands, the impacts may be different on women and men, especially for those living in the outer islands, which are more highly dependent on natural resources. Women and men play different roles and have different patterns of using natural resources. Unfortunately, there is very little information on the gender dimensions of the use-patterns and management of natural resources in the Pacific Islands region. There is also limited information on the respective traditional knowledge, practices and contributions of women and men in food security and disaster preparedness. This information is critical for developing adequate adaptation strategies that tap the combined capacity and knowledge of women and men. There is a need to conduct research and gender analysis on the impact of environmental change (whether induced by unsustainable use of natural resources or climate change), natural disasters, food insecurity, lack of sustainable energy and resource use practices.

Women's role as farmers and in fisheries is often overlooked because they are seen as helpers and not as food producers and natural resource managers. However, an important percentage of the food consumed by households is produced or collected by women. They also play an important role in processing food, whether for storage or for market. This knowledge is not recognised by policy-makers and not exploited, although it could contribute to developing

better food security strategies. It also means that training and extension services are rarely customised for or provided to women to upgrade their skills and further contribute to the resilience of their families and community. *Support women's access to technical training and information about climate change, disaster management, food security and energy as a means of better equipping them to adapt their own practices and participate in local, national and regional decision-making processes* is an important recommendation made in the Beijing +15 report that will directly contribute to the sustainable development of Pacific Island countries and territories (SPC, 2010; 105).

Women's participation in policy making and design of training and services in relation to land use are fundamental for adapting to environmental stresses and climate change. In this context, it will be critical to support women's equal participation in local, national and regional land-use discussions and the development of legislation and policies protecting women's rights across all customary and legal land systems (SPC 2010; 104). Women's rights to land, extension services and training, clean water, sanitation and affordable energy sources must be an integral part of sustainable development strategies and plans. At the *Pacific Women's Ministerial Workshop on Climate Change* held in Nadi, Fiji, on 20 July 2011, Ministers agreed that the adverse impacts of climate change are likely to have far-reaching consequences for Pacific Island economies and the well-being of Pacific people. They may also affect women and men differently, acknowledging the different yet complementary roles of men and women in ensuring the well-being of their families and the development of their society. The Ministers affirmed the necessity of taking into account the knowledge, experiences and priorities of both women and men in order to develop effective climate change strategies (*Communiqué of the Fourth Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting, Nadi, Fiji, 20–22 July 2011*).

Developing sustainable sources of energy to address the needs of both women and men is critical for sustaining the development of Pacific Island countries and territories. Most countries are highly dependent on imported fossil fuel for transportation and electricity production. An average of 14 to 20% of foreign exchange earnings is spent on oil importation (UNESCAP, 2010; 34). The development of island countries requires high expenditure on transportation to reach the outer islands and address the needs of widely dispersed populations. This affects the costs of goods and services and is a real impediment to development. On the other hand, populations living in remote islands still rely heavily on biomass to meet their energy needs. In both cases, women and men are affected differently by energy-related issues and have different needs because they play different roles in productive and household-related work. Despite this situation, few energy policies in the region take into consideration the gender

dimension of energy uses and needs. Therefore, there is an urgent need to invest in the development of alternative sustainable sources of energy that will contribute to addressing the energy needs of both women and men in terms of economic development, access to markets and services, and household-related tasks. Gender analysis of energy uses and suitable services should be systematised to inform energy related policies and programs. For example, solar energy may present a reliable source of energy in the Pacific Islands context. However, countries have to be cautious in promoting biofuel use to make sure it does not compromise food security.

Gender equality commitments

Numerous international and regional platforms and conventions state the importance of gender equality for achieving development, peace, prosperity and resilience. However, 64 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 31 years after global agreement on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 17 years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, and 15 years after the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, women around the world are still struggling to get the necessary resources to feed their family, have access to education and basic healthcare services, be protected against all forms of violence, have their voices heard, participate in decision-making that affects their lives, have their basic human rights respected, and be recognised as important stakeholders with significant experience and knowledge vital for their society. Unfortunately, the situation is different in the Pacific Islands region.

The Pacific Island region is still struggling to meet the commitments towards gender equality and improve women's human rights. Despite focused attention on the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Pacific region has had mixed success in achieving MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. According to the 2011 Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report, four countries remain off track from achieving their objectives, with the performance of two (Tonga and Vanuatu) deteriorating during the survey period. Only Cook Islands, Niue and Palau are on track to achieve this goal, with Cook Islands and Palau both improving their performance during the survey period. The Tracking Report notes that gains

Commitments to gender equality have been made in many Pacific regional development frameworks, such as the PPA, the Pacific Plan and Forum Leaders' communiqués. Such commitments are also evident in international treaties and frameworks such as the BPA, Millennium Development Goals, International Conference on Population and Development, CEDAW and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as in other regional and international frameworks. However, these commitments are yet to be fully integrated into national and regional development agendas.

Communiqué of the Fourth Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting, Nadi, Fiji,
20–22 July 2011

are being made on achieving gender parity in education, while progress on empowering women, as measured by the share of women in the non-agricultural sector and seats held by women in national parliaments, is much slower. Men outnumber women in paid employment outside the agricultural sector by approximately two times. The public sector is usually the largest employer with most women occupying lower level positions, although there are a growing number of women in some countries holding mid- to senior-level public service positions. Cook Islands and Niue are the only countries where women account for more than 50 percent of employment in the non-agricultural sector, and this is reflected in the strong leadership roles taken by women in the Chambers of Commerce in these countries.

A growing number of Pacific Islanders are affected by poverty and the adverse impacts of climate change. Gender inequality affects not only women's resilience but has the broader impact of hindering the capacity of the whole society to adapt to the numerous challenges of socio-economic and environmental changes.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio +20, is an opportunity to reinforce the commitments taken at the international and regional level on gender equality and women's human rights.

The Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality is a key instrument in the promotion of gender equality for sustainable development in the Pacific Islands region. Recalling the specificity of the Pacific Islands region and the importance of culture and family for the well-being and development of its people, the *Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005 to 2015* is a key instrument in which Pacific Island countries have committed to promote gender equality and women's rights across all sectors and at all levels of society. Four strategic themes have been defined with the global objective of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development:

- 1) Mechanisms to promote advancement of women
- 2) Women's legal and human rights
- 3) Women's access to services
- 4) Economic empowerment of women

Several initiatives have been implemented in the region to achieve those goals. In 2010, the report *Beijing +15: Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories* presented at the 11th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, noted that despite progress made, notably in education, health and employment, gender

inequalities remain prevalent in most development sectors and hamper the capacity of countries to address sustainable development issues.

CEDAW is among the international human rights instruments adopted by most countries of the Pacific Islands region and is central to any long-term improvements in gender equality at national level, as emphasised by Ministers at the Fourth Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting, Nadi, Republic of Fiji, 20–22 July 2011. The elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the respect for women's human rights are critical to achieving all dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development.

Delegations from Pacific Island countries and territories can play a significant role in putting forward gender equality and women's human rights during Rio +20 negotiations.

These issues are not new. Already, Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 was very clear on the importance of addressing gender issues and supporting women's empowerment. Unfortunately, 20 years later, these recommendations are still on the agenda and strong commitments and adequate resources must be invested to achieve real progress.

Gender perspective on the post-2015 development framework

At the request of member states in the outcome document of the 2010 MDG Summit³, the UN Secretary-General issued in July 2011 the first in a series of annual reports⁴, highlighting issues for advancing the UN development agenda beyond 2015. The report's key messages were:

- i) The discussion of the post-2015 development agenda should start with a thorough evaluation of the MDGs to assess what has worked and what needs improvement.
- ii) Sustainable development must be at the centre of any post-2015 development agenda.
- iii) There are new development challenges that need further reflection: issues such as inequality, climate change, food and energy security, environmental degradation, demographic trends, peace and security, respect for human rights and good governance.
- iv) The new challenges could be addressed by more fully operationalising the values and principles contained in the Millennium Declaration, which remain relevant as ever.

³ A/65/L.1

⁴ A/66/126

The report makes a strong recommendation for an inclusive, open and transparent consultative process to generate a global consensus on the post-2015 development agenda. It also highlights the Rio +20 Summit and International Conference on Nutrition (ICN +20) as important opportunities to discuss the post-2015 agenda.

A UN Task Team has since been established by the UN Secretary General on the post-2015 development agenda. This Task Team, led by UN DESA and UNDP, will coordinate system-wide preparations and propose a unified vision and road map for the definition of a post-2015 development agenda. The UN Task Team began its work in January 2012 and held its first Expert Group Meeting at the end of February 2012. Some of the main findings of the meeting were as follows⁵:

- i) A strong message emerged on the need for an open and inclusive consultation process, engaging all stakeholders.
- ii) Many participants stressed human rights, with particular attention to economic, social and cultural rights, and rights of participation.
- iii) A key question raised was how to maintain the global vision of the MDG framework, presenting its simplicity.
- iv) In this regard, a related question raised was how to maintain this global vision, while remembering that 'no one size fits all' and reflecting the new and emerging challenges.
- v) Participants also asked how the post-2015 development agenda will include issues that are not easily measurable, while at the same time maintaining effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for accountability.
- vi) Finally, the meeting considered prospects for convergence between the Rio +20 and post-2015 processes, stressing that sustainable development must be at the core of the post-2015 development agenda.

In addition, the UN Development Group, led by UNDP, is planning to organise 50 national-level consultations, as well as a number of thematic consultations. The full list of countries targeted for national consultations are not yet available, but Nepal held national consultations in February 2012. On the thematic consultations, the provisional list of themes includes:

- i) *Inequalities* (including gender);

⁵ Briefing with UN Delegates on Post 2015 Development Agenda, Welcome Remarks by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Secretary-General of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, 28 February 2012, Conference Room 1, UNHQ, New York.

- ii) *Health* (issues covered by MDGs 4, 5 and 6, and also non-communicable diseases);
- iii) *Education* (primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational);
- iv) *Growth and employment* (including investment in productive capacities, decent employment and social protection);
- v) *Environmental sustainability* (including access to energy, biodiversity, climate change and food security);
- vi) *Governance* (governance at all levels; global, national and sub-national);
- vii) *Conflict and fragility* (conflict and post-conflict countries, and those prone to natural disasters);
- viii) *Population dynamics* (including ageing, international and internal migration, and urbanisation); and *Hunger* (including food and nutrition security).

Cross-cutting themes for all consultations include gender, human rights, young people, inequalities and the global partnerships necessary to make progress. Different UN agencies have been mandated to take on these consultations (e.g. UNICEF and UN Women co-lead on inequalities).

Although it is unlikely that substantive discussions or decisions will be made on the post-2015 development framework at the Rio Summit, it is recommended that Pacific governments consider the following recommendations in their own national statements or interventions at high-level meetings:

- a. Poverty eradication must remain the overarching focus and must not be lost or downgraded in formulating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, particularly in light of the proposed universal application of the SDGs. Pacific countries and territories continue to struggle to combat poverty and these efforts must continue to be supported.
- b. The establishment of SDGs will impact on development schemes and funding. Therefore, it is crucial that gender equality and women's empowerment are not only explicitly stated in the outcomes of negotiations as critical conditions for achieving SDGs but are also included as one of the focus areas for priority attention.
- c. SDGs must be backed by a solid delivery plan, with responsibilities clearly outlined. Strengthening the capacity of countries to collect and analyse sex

disaggregated data must form a key part of this plan. This is a critical area for Pacific Island Countries, given that tracking the region's progress on the MDGs is made difficult by a general lack of comprehensive quality data and by statistical capacity constraints.

- d. The special circumstances of small island development states (SIDS) must be factored into the setting of SDG targets and indicators, given their small population sizes and to ensure national targets/ownership are realistic for them. For instance, the MDG target of reducing the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters, measured by maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, proved unrealistic for the majority of Pacific SIDS with 11 countries recording a total population of below 250,000.

Additional recommendations

The following are some recommendations for strengthening gender equality commitments in the Rio +20 negotiations, which will support the efforts of Pacific Island countries and territories to achieve sustainable development goals:

- 1) Accord high priority *and resources to the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment towards the* achievement of sustainable development and include this as part of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets.
- 2) Establish gender-responsive financing mechanisms and governance structures and promote the equitable participation of women in decision-making in economic development and natural resources management at all levels.
- 3) Establish an enabling legal, institutional and social environment for gender equality and human rights and align national, regional and international legal and institutional frameworks with CEDAW, including economic, social and environmental policies.
- 4) Conduct gender analysis to identify the differential impacts of environmental stresses and climate change on women and men and develop adequate strategies and allocate proper resources to address their needs and build their resilience.
- 5) Mainstream gender in all sectors of development and build national capacities to identify and address gender issues.
- 6) Ensure equitable access to and equal rights over fundamental productive resources, such as land, marine resources, water, services and social protection.

- 7) Stop commodification and privatisation of land and conduct thorough studies on the impacts of mining development – including deep sea mining - on Pacific Island peoples' livelihoods, well-being and culture to inform policy-making and development plans.
- 8) Establish parameters for the development of green economies to ensure equal opportunities for women and men and a fair distribution of the benefits generated.
- 9) Protect people's rights over their natural resources and their traditional livelihoods, notably for women and indigenous people.
- 10) Develop clean and renewable energy and gender-responsive energy policies, legislation and investments in order to alleviate women's workload in relation to their reproductive and productive (motherhood and household) roles and support their economic empowerment.

For additional information

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Appendix 1:

FOURTH PACIFIC WOMEN'S MINISTERIAL MEETING

NADI, REPUBLIC OF FIJI, 20–22 JULY 2011

COMMUNIQUÉ

Preamble

1. The Fourth Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) was held in Nadi, Republic of Fiji, from 20–22 July 2011. A Ministerial Workshop on Climate Change was held in conjunction with the Fourth Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting. Annex 1 contains the communiqué from that meeting.
2. Participants at the Fourth Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting included representatives of 18 SPC member countries and territories – *Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Australia and New Zealand* – and representatives of regional, non-governmental, civil society and academic organisations, private sector partners, United Nations (UN), donors and development partner organisations.
3. The overall objective of the Fourth Women's Ministerial Meeting was to consider the outcomes and recommendations from the 2010 11th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and the relevant outcomes of the 2010 Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting and to agree on ways to best implement the recommendations effectively at national level.
4. Pacific Women's Ministers endorsed the findings of the review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in the Pacific and the outcomes of the 11th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in the areas of: Mechanisms to Promote the Advancement of Women; Women's Legal and Human Rights; Women's Access to Health Services; and Women in the Pacific Economy.
5. Ministers reaffirmed that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was central to any long-term improvements in gender equality in the region. They also endorsed the need for women to have the right to political and public participation and reaffirmed the need for high-level political commitment to Temporary Special Measures (TSM).
6. Ministers recognised the need for Pacific Island ministers and parliamentarians to be made aware of gender issues such as through parliamentary select committees and advocacy committees.
7. Ministers noted the ongoing need for capacity building on gender at all levels, taking into account local knowledge and experience. They also noted the need for information on gender equality and women's rights to be made available to women in remote islands and areas.
8. The meeting noted the important role of the private sector in advancing the role of women in the economy and the need to develop and strengthen ongoing partnerships between business organisations such as the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation and women's organisations. In recognition of its significance, the inclusion of private sector representation in future women's ministerial meetings was approved. In this context, the meeting also endorsed the need for partnerships between governments and civil society organisations.
9. Ministers recognised that HIV and AIDS represent a critical development issue that is increasingly affecting women and children in the Pacific. They affirmed the need to

sustain high-level political commitment towards an effective HIV response that is inclusive of people living with and affected by the virus.

10. Ministers received the report of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Reference Group on Sexual and Gender Based Violence. This report covered the group's scope of work, recent activities and plans for the future. It also acknowledged the important advocacy and technical advisory role the group plays in supporting ongoing work concerned with the elimination of violence against women at both regional and national levels.
11. Ministers received the report of Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, and encouraged SPC to continue its support of this group as a Co-Chair. They welcomed the preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and also encouraged development partners to support the development and implementation of the Regional Action Plan through financial resources.
12. The Fourth Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting commended the establishment of the new UN women's entity, UN Women. It noted that the existence of this body should strengthen and sharpen the focus of support from UN agencies and other development partners for gender equality and the empowerment of women.
13. In discussions on the structure and composition of the executive board of UN Women, ministers recommended that the Pacific be allocated three positions on the board and agreed to follow through on this recommendation with Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Pacific Island country representative offices to the United Nations based in New York. They also recommended that UN Women establish three sub-regional offices in the Pacific – one each in Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. Ministers noted the announcement by the Government of Solomon Islands to contest a seat on the executive board of UN Women in the next election.
14. The 11th Triennial Conference recommendations follow on from the global 15-year review of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPA)* endorsed at the Beijing Women's Conference in 1995 and its regional counterpart, the *Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women (PPA)*.
15. Commitments to gender equality have been made in many Pacific regional development frameworks, such as the PPA, the Pacific Plan and Forum Leaders' communiqués. Such commitments are also evident in international treaties and frameworks such as the BPA, Millennium Development Goals, International Conference on Population and Development, CEDAW and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as in other regional and international frameworks. However, these commitments are yet to be fully integrated into national and regional development agendas. The Fourth Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting thus focused on strategies and mechanisms for refining national and regional approaches to ensure gender equality is given priority across all sectors and additional resources are dedicated to these efforts.

Mechanisms to promote the advancement of women

Ministers discussed the opportunities available within government and regional structures to promote the advancement of women. They reiterated the need to strengthen these existing mechanisms and to consider innovative ways to support gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women.

The Ministerial Meeting acknowledged the need for:

- strengthening and utilising existing structures such as through Parliamentary Select Committees, including targeted technical assistance to create sensitivity and build the

awareness of parliamentarians on gender issues, gender mainstreaming and women's human rights;

- targeted gender-sensitised capacity building and training for law enforcement agencies and government officials – further noting the need for the utilisation and strengthening of existing government mechanisms to incorporate gender issues;
- governments to recognise and utilise the expertise of civil society organisations and the private sector in efforts to advance gender equality;
- raising the awareness of gender mainstreaming issues at the national and regional levels;
- considering further how to raise the profile of and give higher priority to the role and work of national women's machineries by placing them within strategic government departments, such as the Office of the Prime Minister or Office of the President, in order to provide a gender perspective in all national and policy discussions;
- development partners and donors to ensure that financial, technical assistance and programming integrates and addresses gender issues and supports gender analysis and mainstreaming across government sectors;
- creation of an enabling environment for national women's machineries, to gain better access to development partners;
- increased support for the compilation and analysis of gender data and statistics to improve policy advocacy, implementation, monitoring and reporting;
- men's support to enable women's participation in decision-making, particularly in customary and community-based structures. Ministers further noted the need to strengthen existing traditional structures and systems to promote women's participation at community level;
- profiling the reality of life for francophone women at regional and international levels, using accurate data and statistics; and
- facilitating the participation of Pacific French-speaking territories at regional and international fora.

Women's legal and human rights

CEDAW is the basis for securing women's legal and human rights.

The ministers noted the need for:

- continued support for ratification, reporting, implementation and monitoring of CEDAW, including increased provision of budgetary and technical resources to support these processes;
- provision of additional budgetary support to enable drafting and implementation of legislation to address gender inequality, including violence against women;
- integration of francophone territories into the French CEDAW report, including support the establishment of a CEDAW committee in Wallis and Futuna;
- provision of external technical support at national level, integrating women's human rights and ensuring that leaders and key stakeholders understand its linkages with other sectors, such as information and communications technology, economics, infrastructure, agriculture and health;
- gender training for women in leadership, with a strong emphasis on research, legal literacy, empowerment, and civicⁱ and voter education;

- local knowledge to be merged with external technical advice and support at national level;
- the adoption of short-term strategies such as temporary special measures, for example legally enacted quotas providing for reserved seats for women, which in combination with awareness raising and capacity building, will contribute to overcoming entrenched discrimination against women and to their advancement in political decision-making in the long term.
- ratification, domestication, localisation and implementation of core human rights conventions such as CEDAW, CRC, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment; the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Women's access to health services

The ministers recognised that women's health has been a concern among Pacific Island countries and territories for many years and that many women are still dying prematurely or are unnecessarily suffering ill health and disability due to a range of factors. Although there are specific problems that affect only women, such as reproductive cancers and risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth, women's health is increasingly being threatened by noncommunicable diseases and women are often denied access to safe, sensitive, competent and responsive health services.

Leading on from discussions on Temporary Special Measures (TSM), ministers recognised:

- the importance of TSM as a means of increasing women's representation at the highest levels for advocacy, policy formulation and budgetary support to address priority health issues for women and girls in the Pacific;
- that specific mandatory budgetary support should be allocated for women's health needs, non communicable diseases, gender based violence issues and women's health services generally;
- the need to establish a mechanism whereby gender based violence is specifically addressed as a women's health issue and mainstreamed into health services; and
- the work of the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation and other non-governmental organisations in responding to HIV at the regional and national levels in the Pacific, and they reaffirmed the establishment of a Pacific Coalition on Women and AIDS calling for support from the development partner community for this initiative.

Women in the Pacific economy

Economic empowerment for Pacific women means equal opportunities in leadership and decision-making, security and independence. It is recognised that women entrepreneurs make up a large proportion of the informal business sector; therefore building partnerships with private sector organisations and women in business organisations is essential if women entrepreneurs are to graduate to the formal sector of Pacific economies.

Ministers noted the need to:

- establish a critical mass of women at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors to create a transformational shift in gender equality in the economy;
- create the enabling environment for women's representation on boards, in the community, in the private sector and in decision-making positions in all Pacific Island countries and territories, utilising existing national women's machineries, with special attention to young women;
- mobilise and educate men and women on the need for change to a gender equal economy;
- continue to increase access to finance including insurance, savings, investments and credit;
- specifically support women in business by creating a more targeted, enabling environment to increase women's business knowledge and skills and, in doing so, facilitate the transition to formal, larger women-owned businesses;
- reduce the vulnerability of women operating in the informal sector through greater education and improved enabling environment;
- promote women's traditional knowledge and crafts at the national, regional and international level, in partnership with civil society organisations. encourage more public-private partnerships to foster women's involvement in business development and access to markets; and
- enhance the quality of research and data analysis on women in the economy, specifically to: (i) address the gaps in understanding of the economic cost of gender based violence; (ii) meet the need for baseline surveys on micro, small and medium enterprises in each country and territory to determine women's participation in the economy; and (iii) demonstrate the value of women's contribution to the economy.

Nadi, Republic of Fiji

22 July 2011

Appendix 2: Pacific Civil Society Statement to Rio+20 Conference

The Future We Demand

Pacific Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and allies appeal to member states of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 for strong political leadership to avert the imminent disaster to our planet by urgently changing dominant development and political mindsets, and moving quickly to real and transformative solutions.

Call to reaffirm Rio principles

The 'business as usual' mindset has failed. We must accept that there is nothing 'sustainable' about current economic and social systems. We see this in the recurring global financial, energy, food, water and ecological crises leading to deeper inequality, displacement and dislocation of peoples, violent conflict, and marginalization of vulnerable communities and groups. We have surpassed critical tipping points in our ecological carrying capacity with already around 200 species becoming extinct around the world every day. We must do all it takes to ensure that the last remaining key biodiversity areas are safeguarded from encroachment by unsustainable production and consumption.

Agendas and decisions based on these failed economic, social and ecological conditions nevertheless persist, reinventing and perpetuating the problem under new guises. The Green Economy, seen as the RIO+ vehicle to usher in genuine sustainable development, must be founded on people's welfare and community empowerment as the key stewards of biodiversity. Government policies toward private sector involvement especially by transnational corporations in so-called Green Economy industries must be framed within the larger goal of national development, poverty eradication, participation by citizens, and transparency and accountability. We must move away from modalities where regulatory frameworks are written up at the regional level with the involvement of powerful countries whose economic interests are tied with overseas investments. The green economy must be embedded in a holistic concept of sustainability.^[1]

In 1992 the unique environmental and economic vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were also recognized and articulated in the Barbados and Mauritius documents in Agenda 21, and subsequently reiterated by the Association of Small islands states (AOSIS) and G77 Groups^[2]. There were also over 121 references to gender in Rio's Agenda 21, and a core approach of social justice and human rights included equality for women and girls.

Twenty years on, these pledges made in Rio remain unfulfilled, unresourced, and under threat.

Revisiting the Pacific context

Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) are acutely aware of our multifaceted risks to global economic crisis and environmental shocks. However, PSIDS also recognize our importance resilience that remains under-emphasized by civil society, development partners and Pacific governments themselves, perhaps because it directly counters the commonly pushed ideologies of free trade and financialised economies.

Our locally appropriate subsistence models of economic production that exist outside of the global market economy ensure some level of resilience to shocks. We know this from research, and in our daily lives. Our close spiritual connection with the lands and sea is also at the heart of this resilience. So as Pacific peoples we continue to defend our right to re-create and sustain our own systems of social, environmental and economic organization in the midst of regional and global pressure to conform to dysfunctional trade and financial systems that would further harm our people. In contrast the Rio Principles, if fully and meaningfully respected, would assist to safeguard Pacific peoples' food sovereignty, rights to trade in fairness with others, while also maintaining the good health of our environment.

However, this resilience is being challenged at Rio+20 by the dominant economic and political agendas.

Therefore, mindful of the sovereign right of each state to exercise its political and economic self-determination on issues of national interest, PSIDS Government are called upon to rethink 'popular' development paths to achieving sustainable development.

All mineral extractive industries, including experimental seabed mining, are examples of old school mal-development. What is needed is a strategic refusal by small island states and allies to participate in this false development course. In allowing essential ecosystems to be mined, we are part of a global industrialization process that views the environment as a means to profit, with environment degradation, social exploitation, biodiversity loss, climate injustice and violence as its consequence. As Pacific peoples, we know better. The creation of platforms to enable effective national transition toward sustainable development alternatives is imperative.

The impacts of climate change are getting worse. Recent floods in Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and drought in Tuvalu and Niue attest to the worsening impacts. In the coming decades, climate change will motivate or force at least 200 million people to permanently leave their homelands in search of viable livelihoods and safety. Climate-induced resettlement and

migration is already occurring in our region. PSIDS are thus redirecting limited resources towards acquisition of lands, conflict resolution, human rights and welfare needs of its peoples. Some PSIDS already face the ultimate threat of statelessness. Member states must give this existential threat due consideration. Clearly, the urgent and ambitious reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to levels established by the IPCC is the ONLY just solution to avert runaway climate change.

Our current ecological crisis will also require urgent state policy and resources for agricultural and fisheries practices based on universal human rights and social justice - not just because this is the right thing to do, but because it is the inattention to core human rights and needs that has brought us to this very point.

The future that the peoples of the Pacific demand in solidarity with others around the world, is one of social justice and human rights for all, and a recognition of the need to balance the three pillars of sustainable development –environmental, social and economic sustainability.[\[3\]](#)

Therefore in appealing to the UNCSD to regain full ownership of the Rio process, Pacific Civil society organizations urgently call upon member states to:

- a. reclaim and reaffirm their commitment to the principles of sustainable development laid out in Agenda 21. These include the principle of: ‘common but differentiated responsibility’, ‘precautionary principle’, the principle of ‘historical responsibility’ (historical debt) and more recently the principle of ‘free prior and informed consent’;
- b. re-establish state responsibility as an indispensable actor in this process of reversing the imbalances created by the dominant economic system, beginning with setting legal and enforceable frameworks and standards of gender equality and universal human rights as well as social, economic and ecological justice as the means to, as well as the goals of, the creation and maintenance of sustainable and holistic communities;
- c. accept that there are limits to the ‘growth’ paradigm and that the Green Economy, put forward as an strategy to realise genuine sustainable development, must be safeguarded from corporatised growth-based frames and initiatives that serve to perpetuate these failures;
- d. reaffirm that poverty and economic injustice cannot be alleviated by more ‘growth’ but rather through more economic-social inclusion and in reemphasizing human quality in equilibrium with the environment as the key focus of development. A just,

sustainable society is possible and more desirable than a society in constant material expansion. This approach is the only alternative to catastrophe

In recognition of the special challenges of mining in the Pacific region, PSIDS are further called upon to;

- e. reject mineral extractive industries, and in particular experimental sea bed mining in the Pacific and to support the transition toward sustainable alternatives;
- f. reassert state responsibility to always uphold, through policy regulation and enforcement, the interests of the public and of the environment over that of corporate industry;
- g. strengthen the accountability mechanisms, resources and capacity of UNCLOS, as the only international UN governance mechanism on oceans;
- h. dually recognize that SIDS are in need of urgent financing for adaptation and mitigation actions under the principle of historical responsibility; AND also encourage and nurture the development of local economic and social models of development that increase the resilience of PSIDS communities to face the adverse impacts of the ongoing global interlinked crises;
- i. take decisive action by engaging in collaboration between States and global civil society partners to develop new paradigms of 'oikos' and whole-earth justice. Such a framing would include integrated, synergistic work on the financial crisis, the food crisis, climate change, universal human rights including gender equality, indigenous rights, and social justice;
- j. Finally, we call for legally binding commitments to reduce global greenhouse gases by 45% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 from pre-industrial levels to guarantee that global mean temperatures stay below 1.5° Celsius, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and as the real minimum level to ensure continued survival of Pacific peoples.

[1] Civil Society Reflection Group on Global Development Perspectives

[2] AOSIS Statement: 'New AOSIS Chair shares her view on Rio+20'. Hon. Ambassador Marlene Moses, Nauru

[3] Rio+20 Women's Major Group Statement, UNCSD Bureau Informal Dialogue with Major Groups. 27 March, 2012

Appendix 3:

Chapter 24: Global Action For Women Towards Sustainable And Equitable Development

Programme Area

Basis for action

1. The international community has endorsed several plans of action and conventions for the full, equal and beneficial integration of women in all development activities, in particular the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1 which emphasize women's participation in national and international ecosystem management and control of environment degradation. Several conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex) and conventions of ILO and UNESCO have also been adopted to end gender-based discrimination and ensure women access to land and other resources, education and safe and equal employment. Also relevant are the 1990 World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for implementing the Declaration (A/45/625, annex). Effective implementation of these programmes will depend on the active involvement of women in economic and political decision-making and will be critical to the successful implementation of Agenda 21.

Objectives

2. The following objectives are proposed for national Governments:
 - a. To implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, particularly with regard to women's participation in national ecosystem management and control of environment degradation;
 - b. To increase the proportion of women decision makers, planners, technical advisers, managers and extension workers in environment and development fields;
 - c. To consider developing and issuing by the year 2000 a strategy of changes necessary to eliminate constitutional, legal, administrative, cultural, behavioural, social and economic obstacles to women's full participation in sustainable development and in public life;
 - d. To establish by the year 1995 mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the implementation and impact of development and environment

policies and programmes on women and to ensure their contributions and benefits;

- e. To assess, review, revise and implement, where appropriate, curricula and other educational material, with a view to promoting the dissemination to both men and women of gender-relevant knowledge and valuation of women's roles through formal and non-formal education, as well as through training institutions, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations;
- f. To formulate and implement clear governmental policies and national guidelines, strategies and plans for the achievement of equality in all aspects of society, including the promotion of women's literacy, education, training, nutrition and health and their participation in key decision-making positions and in management of the environment, particularly as it pertains to their access to resources, by facilitating better access to all forms of credit, particularly in the informal sector, taking measures towards ensuring women's access to property rights as well as agricultural inputs and implements;
- g. To implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and have access to information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values;
- h. To consider adopting, strengthening and enforcing legislation prohibiting violence against women and to take all necessary administrative, social and educational measures to eliminate violence against women in all its forms.

Activities

- 3. Governments should take active steps to implement the following:
 - a. Measures to review policies and establish plans to increase the proportion of women involved as decision makers, planners, managers, scientists and technical advisers in the design, development and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development;
 - b. Measures to strengthen and empower women's bureaux, women's non-governmental organizations and women's groups in enhancing capacity-building for sustainable development;
 - c. Measures to eliminate illiteracy among females and to expand the enrolment of women and girls in educational institutions, to promote the goal of universal access to primary and secondary education for girl children and for women, and to increase educational and training opportunities for women and girls in sciences and technology,

particularly at the post-secondary level;

- d. Programmes to promote the reduction of the heavy workload of women and girl children at home and outside through the establishment of more and affordable nurseries and kindergartens by Governments, local authorities, employers and other relevant organizations and the sharing of household tasks by men and women on an equal basis, and to promote the provision of environmentally sound technologies which have been designed, developed and improved in consultation with women, accessible and clean water, an efficient fuel supply and adequate sanitation facilities;
- e. Programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible, responsible planning of family size and services, as appropriate, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood, and should provide the opportunity for all women to fully breastfeed at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being and should pay special attention to the need to provide equal and improved health care for all children and to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness;
- f. Programmes to support and strengthen equal employment opportunities and equitable remuneration for women in the formal and informal sectors with adequate economic, political and social support systems and services, including child care, particularly day-care facilities and parental leave, and equal access to credit, land and other natural resources;
- g. Programmes to establish rural banking systems with a view to facilitating and increasing rural women's access to credit and to agricultural inputs and implements;
- h. Programmes to develop consumer awareness and the active participation of women, emphasizing their crucial role in achieving changes necessary to reduce or eliminate unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, in order to encourage investment in environmentally sound productive activities and induce environmentally and socially friendly industrial development;
- i. Programmes to eliminate persistent negative images, stereotypes, attitudes and prejudices against women through changes in socialization patterns, the media, advertising, and formal and non-formal education;
- j. Measures to review progress made in these areas, including the preparation of a review and appraisal report which includes recommendations to be submitted to the 1995 world conference on women.

4. Governments are urged to ratify all relevant conventions pertaining to women if they have not already done so. Those that have ratified conventions should enforce and establish legal, constitutional and administrative procedures to transform agreed rights into domestic legislation and should adopt measures to implement them in order to strengthen the legal capacity of women for full and equal participation in issues and decisions on sustainable development.
5. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should review and suggest amendments to it by the year 2000, with a view to strengthening those elements of the Convention related to environment and development, giving special attention to the issue of access and entitlements to natural resources, technology, creative banking facilities and low-cost housing, and the control of pollution and toxicity in the home and workplace. States parties should also clarify the extent of the Convention's scope with respect to the issues of environment and development and request the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to develop guidelines regarding the nature of reporting such issues, required under particular articles of the Convention.

(a) Areas requiring urgent action

6. Countries should take urgent measures to avert the ongoing rapid environmental and economic degradation in developing countries that generally affects the lives of women and children in rural areas suffering drought, desertification and deforestation, armed hostilities, natural disasters, toxic waste and the aftermath of the use of unsuitable agro-chemical products.
7. In order to reach these goals, women should be fully involved in decision-making and in the implementation of sustainable development activities.

(b) Research, data collection and dissemination of information

8. Countries should develop gender-sensitive databases, information systems and participatory action-oriented research and policy analyses with the collaboration of academic institutions and local women researchers on the following:
 - a. Knowledge and experience on the part of women of the management and conservation of natural resources for incorporation in the databases and information systems for sustainable development;
 - b. The impact of structural adjustment programmes on women. In research done on structural adjustment programmes, special attention should be given to the differential impact of those programmes on women, especially in terms of cut-backs in social services, education and health and in the removal of subsidies on food and fuel;

- c. The impact on women of environmental degradation, particularly drought, desertification, toxic chemicals and armed hostilities;
- d. Analysis of the structural linkages between gender relations, environment and development;
- e. The integration of the value of unpaid work, including work that is currently designated 'domestic', in resource accounting mechanisms in order better to represent the true value of the contribution of women to the economy, using revised guidelines for the United Nations System of National Accounts, to be issued in 1993;
- f. Measures to develop and include environmental, social and gender impact analyses as an essential step in the development and monitoring of programmes and policies;
- g. Programmes to create rural and urban training, research and resource centres in developing and developed countries that will serve to disseminate environmentally sound technologies to women.

(c) International and regional cooperation and coordination

- 9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations should review the adequacy of all United Nations institutions, including those with a special focus on the role of women, in meeting development and environment objectives, and make recommendations for strengthening their capacities. Institutions that require special attention in this area include the Division for the Advancement of Women (Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the women's programmes of regional commissions. The review should consider how the environment and development programmes of each body of the United Nations system could be strengthened to implement Agenda 21 and how to incorporate the role of women in programmes and decisions related to sustainable development.
- 10. Each body of the United Nations system should review the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts and, where appropriate, adopt programmes to increase that number, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/17 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat.
- 11. UNIFEM should establish regular consultations with donors in collaboration with UNICEF, with a view to promoting operational programmes and projects on sustainable development that will strengthen the participation of women, especially low-income women, in sustainable development and in decision-making. UNDP should establish a women's focal point on development and environment in each of its resident representative offices to provide information and promote exchange of experience and

information in these fields. Bodies of the United Nations system, governments and non-governmental organizations involved in the follow-up to the Conference and the implementation of Agenda 21 should ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated into all the policies, programmes and activities.

Means of implementation

Financing and cost evaluation

12. The Conference secretariat has estimated the average total annual cost (1993-2000) of implementing the activities of this chapter to be about \$40 million from the international community on grant or concessional terms. These are indicative and order-of-magnitude estimates only and have not been reviewed by Governments. Actual costs and financial terms, including any that are non-concessional, will depend upon, inter alia, the specific strategies and programmes Governments decide upon for implementation.

Notes

- 1 *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No./E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A. [*

APPENDIX 4 - DEFINITIONS

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles held by women and men in a specific society, including their responsibilities, behaviours, and attitudes towards each other. Even if they sometimes looked ‘natural’ those roles are learned and could be different from one society to another and are changing over time.

Equity refers to the concept of fairness and involves access to equal opportunities and the development of basic capacities. To ensure equity is it necessary to recognize that some groups have been disadvantaged and even though the rules do not specifically discriminate some people, they could, in fact, induce some forms of discrimination when social inequalities are overlooked. Therefore equity could necessitate special measures (affirmative actions) to compensate for the disadvantages. Equity is an essential element to equality

Gender equality means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development. Gender equality is therefore the equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play. It is based on women and men being full partners in their home, their community and their society. Gender equality starts with equal valuing of girls and boys. (ILO, 2000)

Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Economic and Social Council, 1997)