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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

**FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC WOMEN
(Agana, Guam, 2-5 December 1991)**

REPORT

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Fifth Regional Conference of Pacific Women brought together a record number of participants, some 400 women from across the Pacific region, who met in Guam from 2 to 6 December 1991.

The primary function of the triennial Conferences of Pacific Women is to provide the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and the women in the region with an opportunity to evaluate progress and constraints in women-and-development programmes and projects over the previous three years.

The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau has now implemented one of the most important recommendations of the Fourth Regional Conference of Pacific Women (Fiji, 1988) – the sub-division of the region into practical sub-regional groupings, for more effective action. These groupings will enable a wider cross-section of Pacific women to contribute directly to the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, thus ensuring that its programme is relevant to the women it serves.

The central theme of the Conference was 'Pacific women: Development for better health'. The Conference devised specific action plans to address the health and development needs of women over the next three years.

At the invitation of the Governor of Guam, a Handicraft Exhibition was held in conjunction with the Conference. A diverse and unique collection of exhibits from every country in the region made the exhibition highly successful.

The Conference was hosted jointly by the Governments of Guam and the Northern Marianas, with financial assistance from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The following information is provided for your reference:

1. The first section of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records.

2. The second section details the procedures for handling confidential information.

3. The third section outlines the requirements for data security and access control.

4. The fourth section describes the process for reporting and investigating security incidents.

5. The fifth section provides information on the roles and responsibilities of the security team.

6. The sixth section discusses the importance of regular security audits and assessments.

7. The seventh section outlines the process for updating and maintaining security policies.

8. The eighth section provides information on the training and awareness programs for employees.

9. The ninth section discusses the importance of incident response planning and testing.

10. The tenth section provides information on the process for reviewing and improving the security program.

II. AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteurs
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Presentation of Working Paper 1: South Pacific Commission Women's Development Programme
5. Cultural presentation by delegates
6. Presentation of Working Paper 3: Pacific women – Development for better health
7. Workshops in sub-regional caucuses
8. Cultural presentation by Polynesian Sub-regional Caucus
9. Plenary
10. Workshops in sub-regional caucuses
11. Cultural presentation by Melanesian Sub-regional Caucus
12. Government Representatives'/Administrators' Workshop
Non-Government Women's organisations' Workshop
13. Plenary – outcomes of above workshops
14. Reports of sub-regional caucuses on action plans for the next three years
15. Adoption of sub-regional caucuses' reports
16. Other business
17. Adoption of the Report of the Conference

III. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The Fifth Regional Conference of Pacific Women was opened by the Honourable Joseph F. Ada, Governor of Guam, following choral items and a traditional welcome by Mr Jess Tano, a Chamorro leader. In his words of welcome, Governor Ada noted the value of the traditional role of Pacific women and their contribution to the quality of Pacific life. He urged that women be given equal employment opportunity. He noted that many women in Guam are in leadership roles, including one-third of the members of legislature, the Attorney-General, several directors and assistant directors, and members of boards or commissions.
2. The keynote address was delivered by the First Lady of Guam, Roseanne Ada, who stressed the past roles of Pacific women, in particular their unique capacity of child-bearing and as home-makers. She noted historical and biblical examples of women's capacity to lead. She emphasised that good health and better health services must be made available to all. She concluded that the spiritual aspect of man is crucial to physical well-being and that this must start at home.
3. The Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, Mr Atanraoi Baiteke, OBE, expressed sincere thanks to the Government and the people of Guam for their efforts in hosting the Fifth Regional Conference of Pacific Women following the aftermath of Typhoon Yuri. He urged the participants 'to consolidate, reaffirm and seek practical, achievable and basic strategies in devising specific action plans'. He emphasised that the best results come from a focus on interpersonal relationships and understanding, and encouraged the establishment of the sub-regional caucuses as an appropriate strategy to enhance this process. He noted that the 123 recommendations from the Fourth Regional Women's Conference seemed extensive and had proved difficult to implement.
4. Sister Julian Perez of Tokelau thanked the Government of Guam and the SPC for bringing together the women of the Pacific. She urged the participants to foster the true Pacific way of tolerance, co-operation, and unity so that the conference could appropriately address the theme of 'Development for better health'.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND RAPORTEURS

5. The Representative of Guam was unanimously elected Chairperson, with the Representative of Fiji accepting the position of Vice-Chairperson. A Drafting Committee comprising one representative from each of the four caucuses: Western Samoa for Polynesia, Republic of Marshall Islands for Micronesia, Papua New Guinea for Melanesia and French Polynesia for the francophone countries, was also appointed. The SPC and Guam secretariats were requested to provide rapporteurs for the Conference.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6. The meeting adopted its Agenda and timetable, as amended.

PRESENTATION OF WORKING PAPER 1: SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

7. In commenting on document SPC/Women 5/WP.1, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau introduced those SPC officers who would be participating in the Conference. The Bureau's Women's Programme Development Officer (English) then outlined developments since the first Regional Women's Conference in Tahiti in 1981. The report summarised the action taken by the

Bureau, including workshops, training activities and co-ordination of Pacific women's affairs. The initiatives of Governments and Administrations in establishing identifiable national women's affairs offices and departments was complementary and heartening.

8. The Representative of Papua New Guinea expressed concern over the lack of working papers focusing on women's health. A situation analysis of Pacific women's health could facilitate the discussions. She strongly stated that representatives to the Conference should be high-level government and non-governmental officials, to facilitate the implementation of recommendations. However, most of the other participants preferred the present level of representation and Conference format. The Bureau was complimented for the current arrangements.

9. The Secretariat, referring to document SPC/Women 5/WP.2, sought the Conference's discussion, at the caucus level, of the proposed future areas of activity. These caucus-level views would be presented at a plenary session and a synthesis reflected in the summary report. The Bureau acknowledged and thanked the Governments of Australia, France and New Zealand for funding the Conference. The document addressed the difficulty experienced with implementing the numerous recommendations from the last Conference and indicated how this might be avoided.

10. Delegates expressed thanks to the Bureau for document SPC/Women 5/WP.1 which, it was agreed, provided a good historical perspective and summary of both the 1988 Women's Conference and subsequent action. Several delegates cited particular instances of national initiatives arising directly from the Fourth Regional Conference of Pacific Women. Discussion also touched on the need for national women's groups, both government and non-government, to undertake activities complementary and additional to Bureau activities.

11. Several delegates indicated that in many subtle ways some of the 123 recommendations from the Fourth Women's Conference had been implemented in-country. The attendance at and enthusiasm for the Fifth Women's Conference were an example of how Pacific women had been mobilised since 1988.

OPENING OF HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION

12. The Pacific Women's Handicrafts Exhibition, held in conjunction with the Fifth Regional Conference of Pacific Women, was opened by the Honourable Joseph F. Ada, Governor of Guam. Inspection and sales of items followed.

CAUCUSES

13. The Chairperson stated that the women of the Pacific had come a long way but still had a long way to go. She then ended the plenary session. The participants then met in the four sub-regional caucuses to discuss the working papers.

14. The SPC Health Co-ordinator presented document SPC/Women 5/WP.3 entitled 'Pacific women: Development for better health'. The paper highlighted the need for this conference to focus on regional issues rather than national interests, formulate an appropriate pathway to a Pacific meaningful life of happiness and redefine our Pacific realities in the light of global changes. It pointed out that the definition of health includes social, physical, mental and spiritual well-being. These must be goals of development. As such, health should be an integral component of all development activities.

15. The paper also stated that women's development must address the needs of the average woman, the sharing of reproductive and domestic responsibilities in the family, and the improvement of women's educational status. A major challenge for women is the increasing emphasis on their economic productive role and its possible adverse effects on their reproductive

and domestic responsibilities. The present approach to modernisation is leading to the disintegration of the Pacific family. Therefore the women of the Pacific must come to grips with the changing demand on their traditional roles. The family must be preserved and the mothering and nurturing roles must not be neglected. However, women must be allowed to develop and to have a greater share of the power and resources in the Pacific. The Health Co-ordinator suggested that men of the Pacific must be domesticated to share these roles and that development must be based on community need and participation.

16. The delegates commented that the Health Co-ordinator's presentation was thought-provoking and stimulating. Comments varied from partial reservations to agreement with the views expressed. Many participants called for solutions to problems and strategies for the empowerment of women.

17. In response to the comments, the Health Co-ordinator said that the women in the Conference must provide solutions for themselves and should not be afraid to change their role. However, the change must be planned and managed. He stressed that the women are the hope for a brave new Pacific.

18. The SPC Health Education Specialist presented document SPC/Women 5/IP.3 on the SPC Community Health Services, and invited the participants to visit the health display in the lobby. He also explained that small grants were available to both government and non-government organisations for NCD-related activities.

19. The SPC AIDS Communication Specialist presented the WHO/SPC AIDS/STD programme. He went on to say that because of cultural taboos in the Pacific, it was difficult to discuss sex. This had caused a lot of difficulties with health education on AIDS/STD. However, the Pacific must overcome or circumvent the traditional taboos in order to protect the people from these diseases of sexual habits.

20. The delegates then viewed a very moving video-tape of a Pacific woman who lost her son to AIDS. This was followed by an audio-tape by another Pacific woman who contracted AIDS from her husband. Since the making of the audio-tape, both the woman and her husband had died from the disease, leaving two children. These tapes would be made available to all Pacific countries for AIDS/STD education.

21. The AIDS Communication Specialist presented factual information on the transmission and natural history of HIV infection. He stressed that HIV-infected persons may not know their situation. It is important to test one's blood at least three months after a suspected exposure to the HIV virus.

22. Dr Mridula Sainath, AIDS Resource Person, presented information on the risk and prevention of AIDS/STD. She stated that since women are the best educators in society, they should be encouraged to educate their children about sexuality, STD and AIDS. She indicated that the problems of non-use of condoms and rape are examples of the power imbalances between men and women. She urged the Pacific to be educated about STD and prevent AIDS because the social and economic cost of this disease cannot be afforded by many Pacific countries.

23. In the discussions that followed, many delegates expressed their concern at the risks of this lethal disease. Representatives of many countries indicated that educational efforts were being undertaken. However, the Representative of Tokelau suggested that the Conference should still institute a call on churches and the Pacific society as a whole to strengthen educational programmes on sexuality and AIDS.

24. The Chairperson thanked the Community Health Services staff for the presentations. She then requested the delegates to go into their respective caucuses and continue with the discussions, incorporating the issues covered during the health presentations.

REPORT OF SUB-REGIONAL CAUCUSES

25. Summary reports from the four caucuses were presented.

A. MELANESIAN SUB-REGIONAL CAUCUS REPORT: SUMMARY

26. The Representatives of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon-Islands and Vanuatu endorsed the creation of a Melanesian Caucus.

Purpose

27. The Representatives agreed that the purpose of the Caucus should be:

- To make recommendations and action plans on programmes and projects that fulfil identified needs of individual countries;
- To promote interaction and exchange between and among countries of the caucus.

Meeting

28. The Representatives agreed that:

- The Melanesian Caucus should meet annually;
- Each country should be represented by two official delegates, one each from government and non-government organisations;
- Funding for the development of the caucus and the annual meeting should be shared between the host country and SPC. The first meeting would be hosted by PNG in 1993.

Fiji

29. The Representative of Fiji outlined the situation in her country. Health issues to be addressed in the next three years included the well-being of women and girls and provision of basic needs.

30. Health or well-being not only covered the absence of diseases, but also included the wider dimension of health in its entirety. The objective was to promote, improve and maintain the health status of women and their families.

31. This could be achieved through family education on personal health and disease prevention, nutrition, child care, family planning, STD and AIDS, family/home economics, social and communication skills, community pride and awareness.

32. Availability and provision of basic needs were vital to the well-being of the woman and her family. They could be achieved through revitalising and reinforcing existing primary health care and encouraging community-based health care services.

33. Implementation of the above issues would be carried out mainly by non-government organisations, complemented by government input. Ongoing and summative evaluation during the three years would be carried out by both NGOs and government. SPC would be requested to provide technical assistance and funds where necessary.

Papua New Guinea

34. The Representative of Papua New Guinea explained that, in recognition of the fact that the health of women is central to the development of Papua New Guinea society, the country was attempting to ensure a holistic approach to the needs and aspirations of women. This would enhance the status of women and empower both women and men to participate fully in development.

35. The country had a three-year plan of action, with strategies for implementation involving both government and non-government resources.

36. SPC assistance would be required for the following:

- Technical assistance to establish a pilot project for distance-learning programmes;
- Technical assistance for awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS;
- Funding for a special edition on HIV/AIDS awareness of the women's newsletter *Nius Bilong Meri*.

37. Another objective was to ensure the provision and availability of basic needs. This could be achieved through revitalising and reinforcing existing primary health care services and encouraging community-based health care services. Implementation would be carried out mainly by non-government organisations, complemented by government input during the next three years. Ongoing and summative evaluation during the three years would be carried out by both NGOs and governments. SPC would be requested to provide technical assistance and funds where available.

38. Papua New Guinea planned to undertake a research study on stress-related illness affecting women.

Solomon Islands

39. The major health issues identified included high fertility rates, short birth intervals (maternal/child health), heavy workload, lack of knowledge on hygiene, infectious diseases and poor nutrition.

40. SPC assistance would be required for STD/AIDS programme development, with emphasis on health education/awareness-raising, and a review of the current pilot project on Women's Revolving Fund.

Vanuatu

41. Health issues for the next three years included primary health care, nutrition education, home/kitchen improvement, and family planning. Progress would be achieved through programmes on awareness-raising among women, formulating policies for the advancement of women, and increased social, communication and management skills. In collaboration with NGOs and other government departments, the Women's Affairs Office would be responsible for implementing, monitoring and evaluating these programmes during a three-year phase.

Other concerns

42. On other issues raised by the working papers, the Melanesian Caucus made the following points:

- The Caucus endorsed the recommendations outlined in document SPC/Women 5/WP.2 for proposed areas of focus of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau in 1992-1994.
- The Caucus agreed that the credit scheme structure and institutional framework proposed in document SPC/Women 5/IP.2 should not be accepted as a model. Each country should be allowed to develop its own model based on its own national credit scheme policies;
- Concern was voiced at the non-participation of Aboriginal and Maori women at SPC fora such as this, given that New Zealand and Australia were also part of the SPC;
- The Caucus expressed its concern to SPREP, through SPC, about the impact on health of large-scale development projects such as logging and mining.

B. MICRONESIAN SUB-REGIONAL CAUCUS REPORT: SUMMARY

43. The Micronesian Caucus endorsed this unique format which gave official delegates and observers from their respective countries the opportunity to participate and contribute to the contents of this report.

Commonalities

44. The Caucus agreed that:

- Governments needed to support the creation of national focal points and assist with on-going programmes for women;
- The Caucus needed to establish a resource profile and a directory of Micronesian women-in-fields of expertise, to be distributed by Pacific Women's Resource Bureau.

Top priorities

45. Problems to be dealt with as top priority were:

- Lack of trained personnel,
- NCD and nutrition-related diseases,
- Communicable disease (STD/AIDS),
- Family health/drug and alcohol abuse.

Action plan

46. An action plan was agreed upon, which included:

- Establishment/strengthening of national and sub-regional focal points or membership machinery;
- Development of human resources and community resources for health;
- Establishment of communication ability and regional network;
- Use of SPC Community Health Services Programmes to strengthen the strategies of the action plans of each member country.

SPC role

47. SPC's role would be:

- To seek funding for annual Micronesian Caucus meetings;
- To provide training and technical expertise for needs specified in each member country's action plan.

Sub-regional issues

48. Action plans for each member country were discussed.

C. POLYNESIAN SUB-REGIONAL CAUCUS REPORT: SUMMARY

49. The women of Polynesia endorsed the continuation and strengthening by SPC of:

- the sub-regional caucus structure,
- the work of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau,
- the work of the SPC Community Health Services.

Objectives

50. The following objectives were set:

- Increase education for better health,
- Ensure availability of adequate economic/human resources to accomplish objectives.

Plan of action

51. An action plan was agreed upon, to include the following:

- Maximise the use of training workshops, social structures and organisations for community health education already in place;
- Translate appropriate teaching/visual materials on community health education into local languages;
- Develop national goals for the next three years;
- Increase involvement of women in expressing/prioritising their real needs;
- Enhance women's access to needed resources;
- Develop/strengthen national AIDS prevention programmes through education and training.

Strategy

52. Each member country, the SPC Community Health Services and the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau were identified as crucial players in the strategy.

Recommendations

53. The Polynesian Caucus adopted the following recommendations:

- Member countries to adopt a holistic approach to improving the health of the community and to developing/strengthening health programmes at the national level in accordance with issues noted in the full Caucus report;
- The Fifth Regional Conference of Pacific Women to approve the establishment of an inter-agency support group of women in the international funding agencies to address the sharing of costs for the conversion of the SPC Community Education Training Centre (CETC) into a more effective institutional instrument for training of Pacific women;
- The Conference to recommend to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Committee of Representative of Governments and Administrations in May 1992 that the proposed review of CETC, scheduled for 1993, be brought forward to 1992;
- Resolution on the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau:
 - We are confident that the South Pacific Commission and national governments will continue their commitment to, and support of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and will include women in their delegations to all SPC meetings, especially those with implications for decision-making on the work of the Commission;
 - That member countries, in line with their continued commitment and support for the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, incorporate the position of Administrative Assistant in the SPC Core Budget;
 - That SPC continues actively to seek extra-budgetary funds for the activities of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau;
 - That the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau continue to monitor actively the progress of the plans of action of each member country;
- That each member country reaffirm its commitment to establish and/or strengthen the national machinery for women's affairs;
- That each member country develop its own specific objectives and plan of action based on the local situation;
- Resolution on nuclear issues affecting the Pacific Ocean region;
- Resolution on climate change and global warming;
- Resolution on driftnet fishing;
- Resolution on waste disposal.

D. FRANCOPHONE WOMEN'S CAUCUS REPORT

54. The three French-speaking territories (French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna) expressed their gratitude to the South Pacific Commission for having recognised their specific linguistic circumstances and administrative structures in establishing a special caucus for them. The Francophone Caucus made the following general comments on the caucus system:

- Because of their linguistic similarities with some of the people of Vanuatu, the francophone group wished to associate French-speaking ni-Vanuatu women with its work;

- Furthermore, the French territories wished to state their cultural links with Polynesia and Melanesia by taking part in the meetings of these sub-regions.

Meetings

55. The Francophone Caucus wished to meet once annually, on a rotating basis amongst the three territories. As a special arrangement, it wished to meet in Fiji in 1992, at the Community Education Training Centre, in order to review the situation regarding training of francophone students.

56. The meeting of this sub-group would last five days.

57. The annual Francophone Caucus meeting would have the following brief:

- To review women's development activities in each territory;
- To appraise progress on the action plans in the health sphere adopted at this Fifth Conference;
- To address one or more issues selected by the SPC Women's Programme Development Officer (French) from proposals previously received from the various territories;
- To propose annually at least one joint training project each year involving participants from the three territories.

58. The arrangements for these annual francophone women's meetings would be as follows:

- Each territory would be represented by one government and one non-government delegate. The SPC Women's Development Officer (French) would seek funding to cover delegates' attendance. The number of observers would not be limited because they would be required to provide full funding for their own participation. The host country would be responsible for the practical arrangements, which would also be under their financial responsibility.
- The Francophone Caucus recommended that SPC invite a bilingual representative of New Caledonia to take part in the Melanesian Caucus meetings and one bilingual representative from each of Wallis and Futuna and French Polynesia to take part in the Polynesian Caucus meetings, in order to affirm their cultural affiliation.

Health action plans

59. The priority issues for the Francophone Caucus were as follows:

- nutrition,
- family planning,
- environmental health.

60. In order to implement priority action in these sectors, the participants to the Conference should:

- Contact public health officials in their respective territories in order to communicate the action plans prepared at this Conference;
- Request the official statistics departments in their respective territories to assemble and analyse statistical data on women, in order to secure reliable indicators for drafting health and women's development projects.

The Francophone Caucus recommended that:

- The SPC organise training workshops for women's group leaders in conjunction with the authorities of the various territories. These workshops should address nutrition in 1992, family planning in 1993 and environmental health in 1994. Their purpose would be to train women to become health education 'relays' for their family, other women and their community as a whole. The participants at such workshops would be chosen after consideration of a detailed report on their activities, their grounds for applying and the practical application they intended to make of the instruction received.
- Each territory annually, on 8 March, publicly develop the training theme selected for that year.

61. The Conference was then divided into two groups, government and non-government representatives. These groups met separately to endorse the action plans of the sub-regional caucuses, to identify mechanisms for their implementation and to raise any other important issues not yet covered. These meetings then reported back to the plenary session.

A. MEETING OF NGO REPRESENTATIVES

62. Ms Cathy Koteka from the Cook Islands was unanimously elected as chairperson. Several delegates informed the meeting of the various NGO activities in their countries. Ms Lili King, Principal CETC, and Sr Kolotita of Tonga discussed the aims and activities of the SPC CETC, Suva, Fiji. The meeting then unanimously endorsed the summary reports from the four caucuses and made additional recommendations as follows:

- That SPC assist in the establishment of CETC-type in-country training centres to address local needs and teach courses in the local languages;
- That SPC provide technical assistance to conduct at least one national workshop to address the needs of NGOs;
- That SPC and CETC staff travel to various islands to run refresher courses for ex-CETC students and other community workers;
- That Governments, through the various departments/ministries, ensure that co-ordination, consultation and communication with NGOs are strengthened;
- That SPC offer national training courses in management skills, including fund-raising and basic accounting, to allow NGOs to strengthen their organisational capacity, to assist networking between and among NGOs, and to encourage women's organisations to play an active role in the development of national and regional women's organisations.

Concerns

63. The NGO meeting was very concerned about:

- The environmental impact from major logging and mining projects, which can disrupt family life to the extent that there are detrimental effects on health;
- The lack of representation at this Conference, and in their respective countries, of the indigenous women of New Zealand (Maoris), Australia (Aborigines) and the women from the Pacific living in those countries.

B. MEETING OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

64. In identifying the mechanisms necessary for the effective implementation of the action plans formulated by the sub-regional caucus groups, it was considered essential to highlight the present obstacles hindering the development of women's programmes. These were as follows:

- (a) The various existing political systems do not adequately and equitably support programmes for women in development;
- (b) A national focal point for the co-ordination of women's activities and programmes is lacking;
- (c) Funding poses problems:
 - Non-availability of funds for certain women's programmes due to tied aid;
 - The limited capacity of member governments to absorb aid resources effectively.

65. Given these obstacles, the Government representatives made the following recommendations:

- That all member governments have national focal points (e.g. Women's Bureaus);
- That national women's policies be integrated into the mainstream development process of member governments;
- That government and NGOs continue to work together in the development of women;
- That SPC liaise with and co-ordinate between the funding agencies and national women's organisations;
- That the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau continue to assist in in-country training in management development;
- That SPC and member countries undertake programmes on gender sensitisation.

66. The Guam Representative on behalf of her Government, offered financial assistance towards strengthening the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau so that it could better assist member countries, especially with the establishment of national focal points for women's activities.

67. The Representative of Solomon Islands presented the Chairperson with donations from participants to Guam typhoon relief activities. The Northern Mariana Islands delegation also donated the surplus Conference T-shirts to the relief activities. The Chairperson, on behalf of Guam, expressed her gratitude for the donations and the typical Pacific thoughtfulness of the participants.

ADOPTION OF CONFERENCE REPORT

68. The Conference adopted its report and recommendations. The reports from the four caucuses were also adopted. Ms Sereima Lomaloma of Fiji expressed disappointment with the delay in preparation of the Melanesian Caucus report. However, the Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands delegates joined those of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa in thanking the Chairperson, Guam staff and the SPC Secretariat for an excellent meeting.

69. The Representative of Tonga moved that the Chairperson present the Conference report to the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in May 1992. The proposal was unanimously endorsed and the Chairperson cordially accepted.

70. The Representative of Tokelau then moved that a representative from each caucus accompany a SPC Secretariat member to the UNCED meeting in 1992. The Conference requested the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau to follow this up.

71. The Representative of Papua New Guinea issued an invitation for the Sixth Regional Conference of Pacific Women in 1994 to be held in her country. The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands was offered as an alternative venue.

CLOSING CEREMONY

72. The closing ceremony took place at the grounds of the Governor's office. Votes of thanks and gifts were exchanged. The Governor of Guam and the Senators of the Legislature presented Resolution no. 218 acknowledging the Women's Conference and Proclamation 91-134, Pacific Women's Day, to the SPC Secretariat as a token of appreciation. The First Lady of Guam delivered the closing address. This was followed by entertainment from the Guam, Kiribati, Palau and Marshall Islands delegations. The Conference thus ended amidst songs, dancing and comradeship.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Fifth Regional Conference of Pacific Women made the following general recommendations of regional interest. More specific recommendations and plans of action were made for each country during the sub-regional caucuses. These are to be found in the detailed reports of each caucus, which are available on request from the SPC Secretariat.

General

1. *The Fifth Regional Conference of Pacific Women (RCPW) recommended that SPC member countries and other agencies adopt a holistic approach to better health and development through the integration of physical, social, spiritual, economic and mental well-being in development goals and strategies.*
2. *The RCPW strongly recommended that governments and NGOs endorse and act upon the reports of their respective countries from the sub-regional caucuses, especially those recommendations concerning women, health and development.*
3. *The RCPW urged all Governments, churches and organisations to develop and strengthen national health programmes, including STD/AIDS prevention programmes.*
4. *The RCPW endorsed the continuation and recommended the strengthening of:*
 - *the sub-regional caucuses,*
 - *the work of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau,*
 - *the work of the SPC Community Health Services,*
 - *SPC support for the structure of sub-regional caucuses.*

Pacific Women's Resource Bureau

5. *The RCPW recommended that:*
 - *SPC and member governments continue their commitment to and support of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and include women delegates in all SPC meetings;*
 - *SPC incorporate the position of Administrative Assistant for the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau in the Core Budget;*
 - *SPC continue actively seeking extra-budgetary funds for the activities of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau;*
 - *The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau continue actively to monitor the progress of the plans of action of each member country.*

SPC COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRAINING CENTRE

6. *The RCPW recommended that:*
 - *SPC expand, upgrade and strengthen the Community Education Training Centre to become a more effective regional institution for training of Pacific women;*
 - *The Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in May 1992 bring forward to 1992 the proposed review of the Community Education Training Centre scheduled for 1993.*

Environment

7. *The RCPW recommended that the following issues be priority areas of Government and NGO activities:*

(a) Nuclear issues affecting the Pacific Ocean region

The Regional Conference of Pacific Women urged regional organisations and Pacific governments to increase pressure at all levels for the cessation of nuclear testing and disposal in the region, the movement of nuclear materials, passage of nuclear-powered vessels, or any other related nuclear activity endangering both the human and natural environment.

(b) Climate change and global warming

The Regional Conference of Pacific Women further urged acceptance by all governments and agencies that the effects of global warming will be especially severe for the island nations of the world. It urged therefore that richer and more developed nations take fiscal and human responsibility for whatever measures may be required in the future, from financial support to the resettlement of populations.

(c) Driftnet fishing

The Regional Conference of Pacific Women urged all governments and organisations to be alert to the dangers that international agreements on driftnet fishing will be over-ridden by nations and corporations scornful of our small size and inability to protect the heritage of our people.

The RCPW resolved to improve awareness and act in the defence of the environment and to ensure that there will not be a resumption, by any nations or agencies, of the use of driftnets anywhere in the Pacific Ocean.

(d) Waste disposal

The Regional Conference of Pacific Women urged Pacific governments to:

- Make adequate arrangements for safe waste disposal systems, and the re-use and recycling of waste at all levels of production. Enabling legislation should be prepared and enacted urgently;*
- Ensure that the Pacific is not a dumping ground for all waste and poor quality food and medicines.*

(e) Mining/logging

The Regional Conference of Pacific Women urged all Governments to ensure that mining and logging do not have adverse impact on the community.

V. LIST OF WORKING PAPERS

Working Papers:

SPC/Women 5/WP.1 South Pacific Commission Women's Development Programme
(Secretariat)

WP.2 Proposed areas for consideration: 1992–1994 (Secretariat)

WP.3 Pacific women: Development for better health (Secretariat)

Information Papers:

SPC/Women 5/IP.1 Statement of principle and operation for the women's sub-regional
caucuses (Secretariat)

IP.2 Credit facilities for (rural) women (International Labour Organisation)

IP.3 The South Pacific Commission's Community Health Services (Secretariat)

IP.4 Women and social mobilisation (Secretariat)

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