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SEVENTH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC WOMEN
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 16-20 June 1997)

REPORT

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1997

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I. AGENDA**Monday 16 June 1997**

- 8.30 – Official opening
Election of Officers
Opening of Arts and Crafts Exhibition (HRH Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita of Tonga)
Official Conference Photograph
- 10.00 – 11.00 – Pacific Women in action: Shaping the future towards the year 2000
- 11.00 – 11.30 – Report on action taken by the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau since the 1994 Triennial Conference of Pacific Women
Discussion
- 1.30 – 3.30 – Gender Analysis of SPC Programmes
Discussion
- 4.00 – 6.00 – Gender Analysis of SPC Programmes (continued)
Discussion

Tuesday 17 June 1997

- 8.00 – Round-up of Day 1
- 8.30 – 10.00 – Progress Reports on Implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA): and post-Beijing/CEDAW Convention commitments
- 10.30 – 12.30 – Progress Reports (continued)
- 1.30 – 3.30 – The Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Pacific Women - An analysis
Discussion
- 4.30 – 6.00 – Panel Discussion on the five core issues of the PPA
- (a) Physical quality of women's life
 - (b) Empowerment of women
 - (c) Enhancement and protection of women's and indigenous people's rights
 - (d) Women's contribution in the realisation of just and peaceful societies in the Pacific
 - (e) Institutional arrangements/Mechanisms
- Discussion

Wednesday 18 June 1997

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| 8.00 | – | Round-up of Day 2 |
| 8.30 – 10.30 | – | Workplan of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau towards the Year 2000
Discussion |
| 11.00 – 12.30 | – | Presentations by Donor Countries
Discussion |
| 1.30 – 3.30 | – | Presentation by Development Agencies (continued) |
| 4.00 – 5.00 pm | – | Discussion |

Thursday 19 June 1997

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 8.00 | – | Round-up of Day 3 |
| 8.15 – 9.30 | – | Progress made in Mainstreaming the PICs - Reproductive Health/Family Planning and Sexual Health needs into Health Programme
Discussion |
| 10.00 – 11.00 | – | Demographic Transition in the Pacific - Implications for Pacific Women
Discussion |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | – | Epidemiological Transition in the Pacific - Implications for Pacific Women
Discussion |
| 1.30 – 3.00 | – | Harnessing the Complementary Potentials of Government and NGO's
NGO Caucus Government Caucus |
| 3.30 – 5.00 | – | Reports from the NGO/Government Caucuses
Discussion |

Friday 20 June 1997

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| 8.30 – 11.00 | – | Activity Day: Series of issue-based workshops |
| | | (a) Women's Health |
| | | (b) Women in Fisheries |
| | | (c) Micro Credit for Women |
| | | (d) Media |
| | | (e) TV |
| | | (f) Radio |
| | | (g) Micro-Entrepreneurs |
| | | (h) Women Centres in the Pacific - Fiji, Vanuatu |
| 2.30 pm | | Final Plenary and Adoption of the 7 th Triennial Conference Report |

I. INTRODUCTION

Representatives of the 22 island member countries and territories of the South Pacific Commission (SPC), donor agencies and dignitaries, including Her Royal Highness Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita of Tonga, attended the Seventh Triennial Conference of Pacific Women at the SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia from June 16-20, 1997.

The conference, organised by the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB) focused on the theme: *Pacific Women in Action – Shaping the future towards the year 2000*.

It reviewed progress made by countries in implementation of issues highlighted in the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) in view of emerging challenges in the region; reviewed and approved the PWRB work programme and the Bureau's coordinating role as the regional lead agency for the advancement of women; discussed progress on implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and heard a report on action taken by the PWRB since the last triennial conference in 1994.

The conference also heard reports on efforts to mainstream women's concerns into SPC programmes and heard presentations by donors and development agencies.

Strongly emerging from discussions during the conference was the issue of gender and the need for its inclusion in all areas, particularly in SPC programmes.

An extensive evaluation of the PPA conducted in December 1996 re-grouped the document's 13 critical areas of concern into five core areas to account for emerging needs since the PPA's formulation three years ago. These include: the physical quality of women's life; empowerment in economic, social, legal and political areas; enhancement and protection of women's and indigenous people's rights; contribution of women to the realisation of just and peaceful societies in the Pacific and institutional arrangements and mechanisms.

The conference concluded with a series of workshops on legal literacy, health, violence, fisheries, micro-enterprise and the media. It also featured an exhibition of Pacific arts and craft and its social highlight was an extravaganza featuring fashion designs from the Pre-European and missionary eras as well as contemporary and futuristic Pacific designs.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Official opening of the Conference

1. The Women's Development Adviser welcomed delegates and observers to the Seventh Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.
2. Custom gifts were exchanged between representatives of New Caledonia's traditional leaders and Her Royal Highness Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita of Tonga, the Guest of Honour.
3. The Representative of American Samoa delivered an opening prayer.
4. The Deputy Director-General (Lourdes Pangelinan) emphasised that the Conference was one of the most important events for women in the Pacific region, and that the agenda was a challenging one. Throughout the week, delegates would consider the Conference theme: 'Pacific Women in Action: Shaping the Future Towards the Year 2000'. Along with evaluating the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau's (PWRB) achievements in implementing its Work Programme objectives, the Conference would determine the PWRB's activities for the next three years. During the meeting the Conference would also re-group the 13 critical areas of concern identified in the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) into five core areas:
 - physical quality of women's life;
 - empowerment in economic, social, legal and political terms;
 - enhancement and protection of women's and indigenous people's rights;
 - contribution of women to the realisation of just and peaceful societies in the Pacific; and
 - institutional arrangements and mechanisms.
5. She further noted that the objectives in the PWRB's proposed work plan focus on education and training, economic empowerment and educational empowerment.

Election of officers

6. The Representative of Papua New Guinea was elected Chairperson of the Conference. The Representative of Tonga was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Conference.

Opening of the arts and crafts exhibition

7. Her Royal Highness, Princess Salote Tuita of Tonga officially opened the Conference Arts and Crafts Exhibition. She noted that very high value was placed on the work of women in the Kingdom of Tonga. The Princess explained that in Tongan, men's work was translated as 'work', while women's work was translated as 'valuable'.

Pacific women in action : Shaping the future towards the year 2000

8. The Women's Development Adviser introduced Her Royal Highness Princess Pilolevu Tuita of Tonga.

9. Her Royal Highness presented Working Paper 1, which discussed the theme of the Conference: *Pacific Women in Action: Shaping the Future Towards the Year 2000*. She said there was an increasing number of Pacific women in positions of authority and power in the region. She said this was achieved through persistence and proven ability to meet challenges in their chosen fields. She stressed the need for women to have ample qualifications to advance their status in the community and shared personal experiences (particularly in business) in her quest for advancement. She said her status as a princess was not influential in her business advancement and she had to overcome countless obstacles. She said women must utilise all available resources and work to acquire additional knowledge and resources. She encouraged the delegates to support each other and work together with men to advance their goals.

10. The Chairperson of the Conference called on the Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to thank HRH the Princess of Tonga for her presentation of Working Paper 1. This was followed by the presentation of a gift to HRH by the FSM delegation.

Report on action taken by the PWRB since the 1994 Triennial Conference of Pacific Women

11. The Women's Development Adviser presented Working Paper 2: Report on action taken by the PWRB since the 1994 Triennial Women's Conference.

12. The WDA discussed the PWRB role in the comprehensive preparatory process towards Beijing. She said this was a turning point in the development of working relationships between governments and non-government organisations (NGOs) and also included the involvement of women at local level. She said the widening of the network allowed the PWRB to work more effectively with the women's network in the region.

13. On reviewing implementation of the PWRB work programme, the WDA said the Bureau had addressed the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) areas of concern in order of perceived needs and resources at hand. The following had been addressed: mechanisms to promote the advancement of women; education and training; economic empowerment; health; culture and the family and legal and human rights.

14. She said a limiting factor was the PWRB's lack of a full staff complement during a significant portion of the three years since 1994. She acknowledged, with gratitude, the significant support of the PWRB's traditional donors – New Zealand and Australia. She also acknowledged the financial support toward the work programme of the Bureau from countries such as New Caledonia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Papua New Guinea and Tokelau.

15. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion.

16. The Conference endorsed the report of the Work Programme implemented by the Bureau and expressed appreciation to the SPC and PWRB on their contribution to women's advancement in the region.

Gender analysis of SPC Programmes

17. The SPC Acting Chief Economist presented Working Paper 3. He discussed the role of the SPC Agriculture Programme in mainstreaming gender concerns. He highlighted the importance of agriculture in the lives of Pacific Islanders and its contribution to income-generation, food security and the ability to meet social obligations. He said in the Pacific, agriculture, as an activity, was performed by men, women and children and in Melanesia and parts of Micronesia women were the main actors in this sector. He said the PPA had recognised the importance of agriculture and the need for programmes to support women in the sector.

18. He said the SPC's Agriculture Programme was one of the biggest in the Commission and was located in Suva, Fiji although it covered many Island countries. In response to recommendations from past Pacific women's conferences and various regional and international forums, the programme had moved quickly to incorporate women's concerns into its programmes.

19. The Acting Chief Economist outlined the Agriculture Programme's biennial Conference of Permanent Heads of Agriculture and Livestock Production Services (PHALPS). He said two years ago, at the 11th PHALPS meeting, the issue of gender in agriculture was introduced and the following recommendations pertinent to the inclusion of gender issues in agriculture programmes emerged:

- (a) That SPC, in collaboration with other agencies, seek funding for two workshops to train extension officers to work with women farmers;
- (b) That SPC, in collaboration with other agencies, assist countries in the development of appropriate agricultural education, with emphasis on gender roles in food production, at primary and secondary school level through gender-sensitive curriculum development and the development of suitable teaching materials.

20. The Acting Chief Economist said as part of the 12th PHALPS meeting in March 1996, gender orientation/sensitisation training was conducted by himself for Directors of Agriculture. In addition, SPC programme staff underwent gender sensitisation training in Suva in August 1996.

21. He said the programme would continue to place emphasis on gender issues and concerns in its future activities.

23. The Chair invited comments from the floor:

- (a) The observer from New Zealand (NZODA) complimented the agriculture programme's efforts to incorporate gender issues into its activities;
- (b) The Representative of Vanuatu expressed her country's gratitude to the SPC for including Vanuatu in its gender training programmes;
- (c) The Representative of American Samoa requested that the SPC conduct a workshop on taro beetle blight in American Samoa. She also moved that the report of the Agriculture Programme be accepted;
- (d) The Representative of Guam said he would work to ensure regional support for women involved in agricultural activities in Guam;

- (e) The Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands seconded American Samoa's motion to adopt the Agriculture Programme report.
- (f) The NGO Representative from the Federated States of Micronesia requested SPC assistance for women in Micronesia who wished to conduct projects on rotational banana farming;
- (g) The Representative of Guam noted Guam's interest in the report of the SPC Fisheries Programme outlined in the conference agenda, particularly activities to increase the participation of women;
- (h) The Representative of the Marshall Islands complimented the Acting Chief Economist and the SPC on its gender training activities in the Marshall Islands;
- (i) The Representative of New Caledonia proposed that gender training in agriculture be conducted for New Caledonia as agriculture is traditionally done by women in the territory. She requested more information on this from the PWRB.
- (j) The Representative of Nauru also requested Nauru's inclusion in future agriculture gender training programmes;
- (k) The Representative of the Solomon Islands requested a representative of the SPC visit the Solomon Islands Agricultural Centre;
- (l) The Representative of Niue also stated Niue's interest in inclusion in future SPC Fisheries and Agriculture training programmes;
- (m) The Representative of Fiji requested information on national follow-up activities in the area of gender training in agriculture. She enquired when the pilot phase would end, and whether women involved in coconut production would be involved in future such training activities;
- (n) The Acting Chief Economist said the SPC would like national workshops to be concluded soonest and would work towards completing these by the end of 1997 to enable follow-up activities to result in action on the ground;
- (o) The Representative of the Cook Islands said the country supported such training in view of its national policy on women; issues articulated in the PPA and Global Platform for Action (GPA) and a lack of data on women in agriculture;
- (p) The observer from New Zealand (NZODA) enquired if resource persons from pilot countries were adequately sensitised towards gender;
- (q) The Acting Chief Economist said gender resource persons were drawn from various SPC programmes and included gender sensitised personnel in SPC's Agriculture and Economics Programmes. He expressed confidence in SPC's strong resource base and said the SPC also ensured the involvement of local resource persons from countries concerned;
- (r) The SPC's Deputy Director-General, Dr Jimmie Rodgers, said country comments on the Agriculture Programme's report were encouraging and said efforts would be made to include countries which had not been included in the pilot phase, in the project's future phases. He said the SPC valued women's important role in agriculture;
- (s) The DDG said the problems of taro and coconut blight were definitely on the SPC agenda;

- (t) The Representative of Western Samoa requested more workshops on fisheries be conducted in Samoa and the region. She emphasised the need for the SPC's gender in agriculture training to involve people employed in technical positions at lower levels in Agriculture departments.
- (u) The Representative of American Samoa asked that her country be included in the project;
- (v) The Acting Chief Economist responded that the country would benefit in the next phase of the project;
- (w) The Representative of Kiribati enquired how the Agriculture programme conducted at the SPC's Community Education Training Centre (CETC) at Narere in Fiji attempted to cater to the needs of countries given their diverse geographical differences;
- (x) The Chairperson suggested this question be raised during the presentation by the CETC;
- (x) The Representative of Wallis & Futuna requested that the SPC conduct gender training programmes in French-speaking territories, particularly Wallis & Futuna;
- (y) In summary, the Chairperson said the incorporation of gender issues was essential to all future regional training programmes.
- (z) The Principal of the Community Education Training Centre (CETC) introduced Working Paper 4 – Gender Issues and SPC/CETC Programmes. She noted that CETC was one of only two SPC programmes devoted exclusively to women. She provided a brief historic account of the Centre's development over the years, highlighting curriculum changes, in-country training provided by the Mobile Training Unit and the 1993 Review conducted by an outside consultant. She also outlined the current CETC curriculum, and possible future directions for the programme, noting that the guiding consideration would be CETC's continuing commitment to the training and development of women to promote equitable and sustainable development in communities. The Centre will effect this through the promotion of the active participation of women and community workers at the local level, in rural and urban areas.

25. The following points were raised during discussions:

- (a) A number of delegations congratulated the Principal on her recent appointment, and expressed their appreciation to the Centre for its fine work.
- (b) The Representative of Kiribati asked the Principal how CETC approached the agriculture component of its training, given the enormous agricultural differences between volcanic and atoll countries.
- (c) The Deputy Director-General (Dr Jimmie Rodgers) replied that while the size of the Agriculture Programme allowed it to address the various needs of large, high and atoll countries, it was not possible to include such demarcation in the CETC course, which was designed to provide a broad introduction to agricultural concepts.
- (d) The Principal noted that the question was fundamental to the CETC's curriculum – i.e. how best to address differences between island countries and territories in one course. She added that occasional seminars would be a useful way of making CETC students aware of these differences.
- (e) The Representative from the Northern Mariana Islands noted that most countries nominated women from governments to attend the CETC course, and asked whether it was possible to include those representing NGOs.

- (f) The Deputy Director-General explained that SPC welcomed nominations from all sectors of its 22 Pacific Island countries and territories, and noted that because the Centre was now donor, rather than core-funded, in terms of staff and administrative costs, there were implications for both the Commission and member countries and territories interested in CETC programmes.
 - (g) The Representative of Vanuatu requested more emphasis be given to management of agricultural resources in the CETC curriculum, which was of particular interest to participants from her country.
 - (h) The Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia requested every effort be made to include participants nominated by her country.
 - (i) The Representative of Wallis and Futuna noted that participants from her territory found the CETC course an enjoying and challenging one, particularly since the course was offered in English only.
 - (j) The Representative of Fiji requested that the Secretariat consider shorter courses on new areas to complement the existing curriculum, on subjects such as gender and policy analysis, and noted the suggestion that CETC might accommodate male participants in the future.
 - (k) The observer from New Zealand (NZODA) asked whether tracer studies had been conducted during the recent review of the Centre's curriculum.
 - (l) The Principal replied that the review had taken into account views of CETC graduates, but due to time and resource constraints it had not been possible to conduct comprehensive tracer studies.
 - (m) The Deputy Director-General noted that the question of male participants in the CETC course was presently a conceptual one; the Secretariat had not yet considered this issue in depth, but possible future solutions could consist of short or summer courses, or a separate programme.
 - (n) The Representative of Guam noted that the Centre's current curriculum could cater for partners, which would be one approach to incorporating male participants. He asked whether the programme intended to offer professional training.
 - (o) The Deputy Director-General noted that the question of CETC providing professional training was a difficult one, and that two points should be kept in mind: other agencies, such as the University of the South Pacific (USP) offered professional training, and SPC should complement rather than duplicate existing courses; and CETC's historical role has been to educate women at the grassroots level and develop them into effective community workers and leaders.
26. The Conference noted that recognition of the CETC certification would depend on the decisions of individual member governments and administrations.
27. The Conference recommended:
- (a) that the Secretariat incorporate training which addressed the agricultural needs of atoll countries in the CETC curriculum;
 - (b) that focal points ensure that nominations for the CETC course are drawn from governments, NGOs and other sectors;
 - (c) that the CETC curriculum continue to be developed to ensure it best responded to the needs of Pacific Women undertaking it.

28. The Women's Fisheries Development Officer introduced Working Paper 5 – Assessing Gender Issues Within the SPC Fisheries Programme. She presented an overview of the work of the Programme's two divisions, Oceanic Fisheries and Coastal Fisheries, and reviewed their approaches to the inclusion of gender issues in the appraisal, implementation and review of their activities. She emphasised that there was no formal policy of gender sensitisation in the Fisheries Programme, and thus no formal mandate or mechanism for the inclusion of gender issues. She focused on the six sections of the Coastal Fisheries Programme, noting that the Oceanic Fisheries Programme collects and analyses scientific data on tuna and billfish stocks, and thus is primarily concerned with the resource rather than the resource user. She emphasised that the Fisheries Programme had made every effort to address the needs and concerns of women in the fisheries sector, utilising the capabilities that it has currently, highlighting that staff are appointed on the basis of their technical expertise. She stated that staff of the SPC Fisheries Programme required gender training and as such a workshop on gender analysis would be held later in 1997.

29. The following points were raised in the ensuing discussion:

- (a) The Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia requested that SPC conduct a workshop in gender sensitisation for fisheries staff in her country.
- (b) The Representative of the Marshall Islands encouraged SPC to conduct training in gender sensitisation during its regional technical meetings.
- (c) The Representative of the Cook Islands noted that pearl farming was of great interest to women in her country, and asked the WFDO whether SPC might consider training in that area.
- (d) The WFDO explained that like other SPC programmes, the activities of her projects were in response to country requests, but that the Fisheries Programme does not have a strong aquaculture component. However, she stated that the Fisheries Programme would do its best to respond to this and other requests.
- (e) The Representative of New Caledonia noted that women in her territory were very interested in fisheries training workshops, and also in attachments to fisheries sections in other countries.
- (f) The observer from New Zealand (NZODA) asked whether the Fisheries Programme intended to pursue an in-depth programme of gender-sensitisation similar to the Agriculture Programme, and whether the Programme had considered incorporating specific country requests for training in this area.
- (g) The WFDO reiterated her statement that the Fisheries Programme had no formal policy on gender sensitisation, but attempted to address women's concerns through the services of its Coastal Fisheries Programme. She felt that at national level, the agency best placed to assist was the UNIFEM Mainstreaming Project, and that given that SPC staff were not themselves trained in gender sensitisation, it would be difficult and ineffective for them to deliver training in this area.
- (h) Regarding her work programme activities, she explained that they involved conducting national assessments of how women are involved in fisheries activities in Island countries such as Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Her experience was that women are frustrated that they have no or limited access to information, training and credit, and workshop topics are determined according to these and other needs, focusing on such areas as seafood, nutrition, processing, drying, bookkeeping and basic accounting skills.

30. The Deputy Director-General assured the Conference that the SPC Executive was committed to a policy of ensuring that all SPC programmes were sensitive to gender issues.

31. The Representative of Wallis and Futuna noted that she had intended to convey a request to the Secretariat from Futunan women for training in preservation and marketing of fish, but had recognised during the course of the discussion that while courses might be sensitive to gender issues at the regional level, the problem also existed at the national and local levels.
32. The Representative of Vanuatu explained that it was very difficult for women in her country, particularly in rural areas, to get access to credit and fisheries information, and requested SPC's assistance.
33. The Representative of American Samoa noted that two of the largest canneries in the Pacific were in her territory, employing some 3000 local women, and that her delegation would be happy to facilitate the dissemination of workshop materials from courses run by specialised consultants in her territory.
34. The Representative of Fiji raised the issue of whether it was better to have separate women's officers in programmes like fisheries, or integrate gender concerns in existing programmes. She also requested that the WFDO explain the development of the Women's Fisheries Network.
35. The WFDO noted that the Fisheries Programme's expertise was in technical issues rather than gender sensitisation, and that it lacked the background and experience to provide this sort of training. But gender concerns were addressed through her project, and she believed a separate section was essential to ensure women's issues were fairly represented and did not disappear in the day-to-day work of the sections.
36. The Deputy Director-General (Dr Jimmie Rodgers) clarified the Commission's role, explaining that SPC could advocate and advise, and incorporate gender concerns into its programmes, but the commitment must occur at the national level.
37. Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, of Fairbairn-Dunlop Associates, asked the WFDO about the Women's Fisheries Support Project carried out in Papua New Guinea, which was expected to be used as a model for future projects in other countries.
38. The WFDO noted that the PNG Women in Fisheries Support Project had begun in 1991 (prior to her employment at the SPC). Her understanding had been that SPC assisted in the establishment of the project, and provided credit funding, but this had been limited due to the time constraints on the extra-budgetary funding from the Canadian Government.
39. The Representative of Tuvalu noted that women were involved in the processing of fish in her country, and their needs were in the areas of processing, marketing and basic accounting skills.
40. The Representative of Kiribati requested that all SPC work programmes be gender sensitised.
41. The Chairperson, speaking as the Representative of Papua New Guinea, explained that the problem with the pilot PNG Women's Fisheries Support Project had been that there had been no support mechanism to follow through its second phase. She noted that the capacity to follow-up such projects was very limited in some member countries and territories.
42. The Conference recommended that the Secretariat make every effort to ensure that its programmes were sensitive to gender issues.
43. The SPC's Manager Community Health Services introduced Working Paper 6: Gender Analysis of activities of the SPC Health Programme.
44. He discussed the current areas of focus of the Community Health Programme and recapitulated the seven relevant regional objectives of the PPA. He said the PPA objectives were ambitious and difficult to measure at regional level; rather they were easier to measure at country level.

45. He highlighted the programme's current areas of focus. These are:

- (a) Disease surveillance and control (Epidemiology),
- (b) Health promotion,
- (c) Nutrition and non-communicable diseases epidemiology,
- (d) Sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) and AIDS prevention, and
- (e) Prevention and control of vector-borne diseases.

46. The Manager Community Health Services said the programme had facilitated an early warning mechanism system for the control and prevention of epidemics. He said the focus was on developing a network for disease surveillance and developing in-country capacity to perceive the importance of modern technology and to advocate for the use of this technology in enabling countries and territories to respond to epidemic diseases in a timely manner.

47. He said the Health Promotion component had initiated and developed a Pacific Island Health Education and Promotion Declaration which had ramifications for public health issues of concern in the region. He said the major focus in the area of nutrition and non-communicable diseases had been on advocacy in promotion of local foods and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. He said the development of a regional strategy on AIDS and STDs would also assist in developing a comprehensive collaborative approach to preventing and controlling the spread of AIDS and STDs in the region. He said the vector borne disease project focused on three diseases: dengue fever, malaria and fileriasis.

48. On the subject of gender analysis, the Manager of the Community Health Programme said the programme was focusing on the issue of human rights and public health. He outlined two distinct principles: medicine and public health. He outlined the extent and duration of human rights violations on health.

49. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative of Wallis & Futuna requested the programme's nutrition workshops be continued. She requested more French translations of health publications.
- (b) The Manager Community Health Services said the programme worked towards translating all its promotional materials but factors such as time affected this.

50. The Chairperson enquired if other networks could be used to disseminate health information to the region.

51. The Manager Community Health said the current vector borne disease project aimed to promote health issues through the involvement of non-health personnel and local NGOs.

52. The Representative of New Caledonia commented on the place of women in health prevention work. She requested more co-operation between the SPC Health Programme and New Caledonia provinces.

53. The Manager of the Community Health Programme said the programme's main focal points were heads of health services and the programme also utilised existing mechanisms.

54. The SPC Deputy Director-General (Lourdes Pangelinan) said in liaising with its official focal contact points the Commission encouraged the establishment of linkages and networks with SPC programmes, and services available at national and community levels.

CULTURE

55. The SPC's Cultural Affairs Adviser presented Working Paper 7.

56. He said the Cultural Affairs Programme was one of SPC's newest initiatives and was set-up in August 1996. He said it was a technical tool available to Pacific Island Countries and Territories and its role was not to define regional policies - this was the responsibility of the Executive Board of the Council of Pacific Arts established in February 1997.

57. He said the Board had defined five priorities for cultural development in the region and the SPC Cultural Programme was planning activities to incorporate these. He said the Council of Pacific Arts had not outlined a specific dimension to include women in development issues and said he would make the relevant recommendation to the Executive Board.

58. He said the vision of the Executive Board highlighted that Island societies were forging an identity and establishing creative dialogue with modern world. He said Pacific cultures were dynamic and it was important to address how best to control developments in the face of obstacles and changes, and the standardised mass culture portrayed by the media. In view of this, he said the following priorities had been set: training in cultural heritage; drafting of legislation designed to protect all forms of traditional heritage of Pacific peoples through national laws and support to artistic creativity.

59. He said specific action for women should include measures to promote women's involvement in cultural institutions and the development of the art and craft market. He said there was a need to account for cultural factors in development. He said his programme was working on a Cultural Network Directory which would be published in 1998. In addition, the programme was promoting new forms of Pacific dance and working on a project to identify regional cultural programmes from the Year 2000 and beyond.

60. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussions:

- (a) The Representative from the Northern Mariana Islands said the Pacific Arts Council's programme aimed to ensure that indigenous art and culture were preserved by the indigenous people of the region. She thanked the SPC for the establishment of the post of Cultural Adviser.
- (b) The Representative of Guam said the country was trying to cultivate its cultural resources to improve tourism and would consult with the SPC Cultural Affairs Adviser on how his programme could assist in this area.
- (c) The Representative of Vanuatu said local dialects were dying out and enquired what the programme was doing to address this.
- (d) The Cultural Affairs Adviser said training programmes for locals were devised within the parameters outlined by the Arts Council. He said it was highly probable that his programme could provide support for the teaching of vernacular languages.
- (e) The Chairperson said the PPA outlined the importance of culture and family and said women were the custodians of culture. She said cultural elements needed to be integrated into existing local programmes.

ECONOMICS

61. The Acting Chief Economist presented Working Paper 8.

62. He said the Economics Programme worked closely with the PWRB. He said the role of the programme was to assist national governments in planning, policy development, marketing and negotiations with overseas interests. He said it was important to remember that the field of economics had undergone many changes and now had a greater appreciation of development as being a multi-dimensional process. He said there were winners and losers in the development process, and that generally, women and children were found to be the losers.

63. He said while many countries had experienced considerable economic growth, close assessment often showed a situation of "growth without development". He said gender analysis was a useful tool to evaluate the negative and positive impacts on the quality of life. He said the SPC Economics unit was working hard in linkages with planners to get them to adopt a holistic approach to incorporate gender into development policies.

64. He said the programme had conducted a gender training exercise in the Marshall Islands in 1996. The programme's Rural Development Unit was working on a pilot project with NGOs in Fiji to promote the need for rural people to prioritise food production. In addition, the SPC and the Forum Secretariat had conducted a successful workshop on Kava growing and marketing. The Household Food Security component of the programme has been working on household food security planning in the region. He said the popular *PIN News* was produced through this programme.

65. The programme had held discussions with Forsec on a study to examine food imports of the islands. The impact of the globalisation process of the Uruguay Round on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meant considerable impact on small countries, particularly those which rely on food imports. The programme was also planning a workshop with the Fiji-based National Food and Nutrition Committee (NFNC) on household food security.

STATISTICS

66. The SPC Statistician presented Working Paper 9.

67. The Statistician said the activities of the programme were determined by the Regional Meeting of Statisticians. He said a high priority was placed on training and encouraged the participation of women. He said there was little the programme could do to get women to attend statistics workshops when the selection process was in the hands of (male) statisticians in the region. He encouraged delegations to lobby for the inclusion of women in training programmes. He said the programme had collaborated with the PWRB in conducting four workshops for women: one in the Cook Islands and three sub-regional caucuses in the lead-up to the Beijing United Nations World Conference on Women; was finalising a statistical handbook for women leaders (which should be completed by August/September 1997) and had completed a project on national accounts.

68. The Chairperson opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative of Guam requested copies of the programme's publication on national accounts.
- (b) The Representative of American Samoa requested more information on activities of the programme to assist its National Office of Women.
- (c) Fiji enquired of the frequency of Statistical Meetings and whether these impacted on the programme's Demographic component.
- (d) The Statistician said future technical meetings would be held every three years.

69. The Chairperson provided a brief summary of proceedings of Day 1.

Progress reports on implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA): and post-Beijing/CEDAW Convention commitments

70. Prior to the session, the Women's Development Adviser said the proceedings would also allow for the participation of NGOs.

American Samoa

71. The Representative of American Samoa reported that the country's major activity following Beijing was the establishment of the National Office for Women in 1996. The office aims to promote women's advancement in education, political participation, human rights, health, environmental protection works to develop networks, and supports programmes to advance the status of women, and acts as a clearinghouse for information on women. Awareness-raising programmes have been conducted on the issue of domestic violence and the office lobbies on law reforms with the government. In addition, the office works with the media to promote women's issues and plans to conduct workshops following the Seventh Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.

72. The NGO Representative of American Samoa reported that activities had centered around the elimination of discrimination against women particularly in the area of violence, employment and business. She said women needed to work together to eliminate discrimination and violence against them.

73. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The NGO delegate from Vanuatu enquired if women had a free and equal voice in American Samoa.
- (b) The Representative of American Samoa confirmed this and said it was part of the function of the National Office for Women to promote this.

Cook Islands

74. The Representative of the Cook Islands reported progress on the economic reform currently taking place in her country, which is taking the lead role in economic and public sector reform in the Pacific region. Her report also emphasised the importance of women's contribution to the reform with the aim being to lighten the burden women shoulder in the process through improving their access to education/training, health and economic empowerment.

75. Government strongly supports women's development through the endorsement of a National Policy on Women which highlights women's rights to equal opportunities and their contribution to the development process.

76. This report also highlights the collaborative effort of government and the Cook Islands National Council of Women in effectively formulating a national action plan to implement the National Policy on Women.

77. In view of CEDAW, government is working on implementing this Convention.

Federated States of Micronesia

78. The Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia said four FSM governments had established national women's focal points, national women's desks (1992), the Women's Programmes in Kosrae (1993) and Pohnpei (1994) and the recently created Chuuk Women's Affairs post (1997). In November 1997, the first Crisis Management Centre will be opened. A draft resolution to ratify CEDAW will be considered by the Fourth FSM Women's Conference in Yap, and if approved, will be submitted for approval. Semi-NGO advisory bodies in all FSM States, play an important role in facilitating NGO participation in gender development.

Fiji

79. The Representative of Fiji said Government is committed to the improvement of the status of women. The policy document entitled 'Opportunities for Growth' has a separate section on Women-in-Development (WID) outlining that efforts of Government will be these areas:

- (a) women as equal partners in all development efforts;
- (b) assistance to women in economic activities;
- (c) training;
- (d) strengthening co-ordination of women's activities;
- (e) legislative reforms.

80. Following Beijing, there was widespread dissemination of information on the twelve critical concerns contained in the Global Platform for Action. The Women-in-Development Steering Committee (WID-SC) discussed ways a National Implementation Plan of Action (NIPA) on Fiji's commitments in Beijing can be developed.

81. It is envisaged that a multi-sectoral approach will be taken when the Plan is implemented.

82. Action on the commitments has started in the country (ref.: Country Paper), even through a comprehensive NIPA is yet to be extensively developed.

83. In terms of CEDAW, the first report is now nearing completion. A detailed plan of follow-up actions following Fiji's accession to CEDAW will be developed. Again, actions relating to this are beginning already. Specific examples include submissions for legal reform relating to Family Law and the Crime Evidence Act and Code.

84. The Representative said there are also new players in the area of WID and gender and development (GAD). Through services offered by these agencies, the opportunities for further advancement of women are thus considerable.

Guam

85. The Representative of Guam said his country's follow-up activities had focused on domestic violence, education and training, economic empowerment, shared decision-making and environmental issues. He said the problem of domestic violence on Guam had historical connotations and related to rapid urbanisation. He said in the Chamorro culture women were the bearers of culture and land rights but modern concepts and Western law had supplanted this and diminished women's role. He said the concept of nuclear families had added to the increased incidences of domestic violence on the island.

86. He said the Bureau of Women's Affairs had attempted to combat this through adopting a holistic approach to address the problem by observing Family Violence Month, conducting workshops and symposiums and the introduction of a Stop Violence Against Women Grant by the United States which enforced stiff penalties and legislation to combat the problem and provide assistance to victims.

87. The Representative said activities had taken place to promote the issue of women's health, women's participation in education and training, economic empowerment, shared decision-making, the promotion of culture and the preservation of the Chamorro language and indigenous people's rights. He said mechanisms to promote the advancement of women included such activities as the annual governor's conference and the government policy document on women - its 2001 document.

88. The NGO Representative reported CEDAW was the main topic on its agenda. The Representative said Guam should exercise its right to self-determination on the issue of CEDAW ratification and set an example to the US which had not ratified the document. She said women continued to lag behind men in all areas and only a society which was equitable could prosper and benefit all citizens.

89. The Chair then opened the floor for discussions:
- (a) The Representative of American Samoa enquired whether a woman would be elected to head Guam's Bureau of Women's Affairs in the future.
 - (b) The Representative of Guam clarified that he was not head of the Bureau for Women's Affairs and said he appreciated the opportunity to attend the conference.
 - (c) The Chairperson, acting as the Representative of Papua New Guinea, said it was necessary to include men in forums discussing women's concerns and canvass their support.
 - (d) The NGO Representative of Guam said the Representative of Guam played a key role in assisting women's development in the Territory.
 - (e) The NGO Representative from Vanuatu asked what attitudes contributed to the problem of violence against women in Guam; how collaboration with law enforcers occurred; and questioned the trafficking of women into and out of Guam.
 - (f) She also stressed the importance of working with men to advance the cause of women.
 - (g) The Representative of Guam replied that law enforcers were mainly members of Guam's indigenous community and said the police department was attempting to change attitudes in dealing with non-indigenous citizens on the issue of domestic violence.
 - (h) On the subject of trafficking, he said the problem related more to prostitution on the island. He said the government was working to alleviate the problem but was addressing it as a health-related issue, particularly in the transmission of STDs and AIDS.

Kiribati

90. The Representative of Kiribati summarised her country's report on major activities implemented since the Beijing Conference. These included awareness raising of the Global and Pacific Platforms for Action (radio programmes, cabinet briefing, workshop for women leaders) and the Women's Legal Rights Programme (including training on CEDAW, legal aspects of domestic violence and training of trainers) and other activities such as the establishment of outer-islands Women's Co-ordination Committees (tasked with the implementation of women's programmes in outer islands), gender workshops for parliamentarians, outer-island planners and sectoral planners; and the political education of women leaders. She also recorded Kiribati appreciation for the assistance extended by SPC, UNIFEM, RRRT and Forum Secretariat to Kiribati in the meeting of its obligations under GPA and PPA.
91. The Representative of Guam asked how presentation skills of radio programme participants were developed.
92. The Representative of Kiribati replied that the Broadcast Publication Authority had interviewed participants of the Beijing conference on their experiences as well as the women on how they feel about the issues that come out of Beijing.
93. The Representative of Vanuatu asked whether it had been necessary to pay for radio air-time.
94. The Representative of Kiribati replied that the Government of Canada had generously funded the cost of air-time, at the rate of \$30 for each 10 minutes.

Marshall Islands

95. The Representative of the Marshall Islands summarised her country's report on major activities implemented since the Beijing Conference. Awareness workshop and activities have been done to inform women of the Beijing meeting. She noted that documents on GPA and PPA and her National Women's Policy all call for empowering women, internationally, regionally and nationally. The only difference in these three documents is that they have priorities their concerns in the national women's policy. The main activities at this time are skills training and awareness workshops for their women throughout the Republic, in areas that will help empower them socially, economically, culturally and politically. There is an indication of her Government's commitments in Beijing by their support and endorsement of three policies relating to the advancement of women (population policy, nutrition policy, and the National Women's Policy itself). She noted that in the Marshall Islands' difficult financial climate, the Women's Division budget was very limited but, as this is the budget preparation time, her Division has asked to come up with a supplementary budget to operate and implement the Plan of Action of her office and hold awareness workshops to encourage women to train for offices in local and national government. Other activities included the strengthening of the National Council of Women, the introduction of women into the public health service provided to the outer islands, the establishment of the Primary Health Council (comprised of women leaders) and the draft implementation plan for the year 2000 (for which she thanked UNIFEM and other UN agencies and the PWRB for their assistance). A Cabinet paper on CEDAW was with the Ministry of Interior and Social Welfare. It needed to be translated into Marshallese. Awareness workshops and training for NGOs on CEDAW were planned.

Nauru

96. The Representative of Nauru introduced her country's paper on its activities, achievements and future goals for the empowerment of women. She emphasised that the women of Nauru faced three major problems: they were unable to rally their resources together, had not found interest-based activities, and the Government was willing to provide a building for activities, but awaited positive results. She outlined activities co-ordinated and supported by the Women's Information and News Agency (WINA), including a National Writers Seminar on Indigenous People Writing for Cultural Maintenance, and the launching of the Healthy Island Plan by WHO in conjunction with the Nauru General Hospital; the Nauru National Council of Women, including profiling of women through media coverage; the Nauru Congregational Women's Fellowship, celebrating its 75th Anniversary; and the Nauru Women's Circle, which runs programmes on health activities. Achievements included the appointment of women to senior executive positions including Ambassador, Secretary for External Affairs, Director of Media, Bank of Nauru Manager and Director of Culture and Tourism. Regarding future goals, she noted that while Nauru had not yet ratified CEDAW, in her opinion the women of Nauru had not produced proof that there is a need to look into CEDAW.

97. The Representative of Nauru requested that Nauru be considered for participation in all SPC programme workshops, and that documentation be sent to NGOs as well as government contacts.

98. The Representative of Guam expressed interest in the National Writers Seminar mentioned by the Representative of Nauru, and asked for more information on this initiative.

99. The Representative of Nauru notified delegates that she could disseminate information on this seminar to any interested representatives.

New Zealand

100. The Representative from New Zealand (Ministry of Women's Affairs) explained that while she would be presenting a Working Paper later in the agenda on the advancement of indigenous women in Aotearoa, New Zealand, she felt, along with the Australian delegation that it would be useful to include country reports by New Zealand and Australia on progress of New Zealand Maori and Aboriginal Australian women on future conference agendas. She added that she did not wish to debate whether these women

should be considered part of the Pacific Islands, but said there would be great value in sharing their experiences in such a forum.

101. The Representative of Guam expressed his support for the Representative of New Zealand's statement concerning the participation of New Zealand Maori in future conferences.

102. Ms Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, of the Western Samoa National Council of Women, suggested that because a large number of Pacific Islanders had migrated to Australia and New Zealand, this would be another perspective from which to consider this issue.

103. The Women's Development Adviser provided the Conference with some background information. Since the Fifth Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in 1991, concerns had been expressed that the indigenous women of Australia and New Zealand should have a voice at Pacific regional women's meetings. Organisations such as the New Zealand group Pasifika (supporting Pacific Islanders in New Zealand) had taken part in the 1994 Polynesian women's caucus in Western Samoa. However, a formal recommendation had never been drawn up by a women's conference on this issue, and might be considered by the Conference later in the agenda.

Niue

104. The Representative of Niue summarised her country's progress in the advancement of women since the Beijing Conference. The primary goal had been to meet the needs of the women of Niue, and thus post-Beijing programmes had been planned to meet local needs rather than conforming strictly to the PPA or GPA. Activities included two workshops held to familiarise women with the CEDAW convention, a post-Beijing workshop held with women representing their various villages (and Niue's delegation to Beijing as resource people), dissemination of information through radio and television on the 12 Critical Areas of Concern, a business workshop to refine women's management skills, and a women's rights workshop. A handicraft symposium will be conducted which includes a business skills workshop on marketing, costing and financial management. Government policy advocates always to set aside a position for a women's representative in all its statutory bodies and government committees. She also noted that the Community Affairs Department had incorporated economic empowerment issues into their action plans, offering programmes such as short workshops, economic development assistance, a women's development programme, and the handicraft symposium. She noted that the plan for dissemination of information through Community Affairs will be carried out through a newsletter, radio programmes, educational television programmes and information sharing in meetings.

Northern Marianas

105. The Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands said Beijing was an important step which contributed to the quest of Pacific women to implement Beijing's themes of equality, development and peace. She said the Northern Marianas had existing laws, policies and programmes which met the goals and objectives of the PPA and GPA. The country's constitution guarantees that women have equal access to basic socio-economic services, full legal and political participation and partnership in policy and decision-making processes and development.

106. The Representative said the implementation of the PPA in the country was consistent with commitments of the US government. She said women were building on the partnership between government and NGOs and addressing four key issues: violence; health; education and training; and economic empowerment.

107. She said each year women from the Northern Marianas participate in campaigns on domestic violence, hold breast cancer symposiums, celebrate International Women's Day and National Women's History Month, Secretarial Week and promote and conduct secretarial training, celebrate Senior Citizen's Month and hold workshops on drugs, alcohol and diabetes. In addition, she said the government was

securing funds for the development of a Women's Resource Centre incorporating a day-care facility and had published the country's first Women's Directory.

New Caledonia

108. The representative of New Caledonia said the Territory had entered the final phase of the *Matignon Accords* which were signed in 1988 and covered a period of 10 years. The Territory was now only few months from the 1998 Referendum. She explained that the Territory was divided into three provinces: the Northern Province, the Southern Province and the Loyalty Islands Province.

There were 271 women's organisations in New Caledonia, and their activities principally targeted violence against women. She explained that the New Caledonia Women's Council brought together some 26 organisations. Women from all backgrounds worked for the advancement of women in the Territory and participated in all aspects of social and political life. Women also participated in the development of their culture (e.g. promotion of traditional weaving techniques, vernacular languages, traditional cooking, medicinal plants, etc.), in the creation of jobs in various sectors (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, business, restaurants, hotels), in defending women's rights (e.g. divorce, all types of violence, maternity leave for women, providing one hour a day for those women who work and who are breastfeeding a child, etc.), in protection of the environment (control of forest fires, implementation of campaigns such as "Clean villages, Clean islands"), and in providing training for women in appropriate technology (e.g. training sessions for women organised in each province, organised visits and studies). The Representatives of New Caledonia urged that, in future, during the week-long conference, two days be set aside for field trips so that participants could see two or three women's projects being carried out in the urban or rural settings. They stressed the importance of all the working papers being translated into French for future meetings.

Palau

109. The Representative of Palau said the country experienced minimal poverty due to its rich land and sea resources. She said Palau promoted equal access to education from pre-school to college levels. In addition, health issues were being promoted and health care and access to this had improved dramatically over the past several years. She said Palau had experienced minimal incidences of violence against women and the Ministry of Health had established an assistance programme for battered women and abused children. She said Palau had become a member of the United Nations in December 1994. The Representative said women played a supportive role in economics and politics in Palau although there were some women in affluent government and business positions. She said the Palau media portrayed women positively and as contributors to the community. The Representative said Palau, like other nations, depended on tourism and related foreign investments to boost the economy. The country also experienced problems such as substance and alcohol abuse. She said Palauan women had been active in agriculture and a programme had begun in 11 states. She stressed women's important role in fisheries and their engagement in spear and line fishing.

110. The NGO Representative reported that the country had recently held two national conferences on women; and the 1997 conference focused on the areas of: the country's sex industry, drug abuse and beetle-nut chewing and tobacco smoking. She said family violence was a crisis in Palau and hotels were being used as shelters due to the lack of shelters for victims. She said the organisation was seeking support and assistance from women in region to effectively address the problem.

111. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The NGO Representative from Vanuatu noted that shelters were new to her country's crisis network, and registered her interest in the establishment of women's shelters in the region.

Papua New Guinea

112. The Representative of Papua New Guinea said a post-Beijing conference was held in November 1995 and consisted of delegates from government and NGOs. This conference sought to reaffirm issues contained

in the national Platform for Action and finalise priority issues to be submitted to national government for funding.

113. The expectations created after Beijing provided a vision to achieve global expectations on a local level and this provided new mechanisms for women's advancement. But it also expected the country's Women's Division to do more with its limited capacity and resources and some progress in this area had been made.

114. Post-Beijing activities have focused on: health; education, training and literacy; mechanisms to promote the status of women and shared decision-making; economic empowerment and employment; legal and human rights; culture and the family; transport, shelter, water and communication; agriculture and fisheries; environment and development; sustainable development and poverty

115. A committee on CEDAW, made up of government, non-government and women's organisations has been established to implement CEDAW, while women's representation has been assured in the soon to be established Human Rights Commission on its Board of Commissioners.

French Polynesia

116. The Representative of French Polynesia explained that her territory had not participated in the Beijing Conference. She said that, in French Polynesia, traditional values were taken into consideration and that women were adapting to the modern world and facing its challenges. Women have been assisted in this area by an efficient public health service and social security system which allowed the entire population access to health care. Action plans had also been implemented in the area of preventive health care and the media had contributed to promoting this issue. Family planning and maternal and infant health care were provided as was a dental health programme and a programme to control AIDS and STDs. Various organisations and governmental agencies were working to assist women who were victims of family violence. She said that a number of women had taken part in the creation of businesses and associations, in the areas of both arts and crafts and agriculture. It was difficult to say the exact number of women working in fisheries but women worked in both processing and sales. She said that women participated in the territorial and state administrations and most held middle-management positions. Women in French Polynesia were beginning to have a voice in politics and had obtained ministerial, municipal and territorial posts.

Solomon Islands

117. The Representative of Solomon Islands introduced her country's statement. She presented her government's position with regards to the implementation of CEDAW. She noted that ratification of the Convention was the Solomon Islands delegation's next priority, after government endorsement of the National Women's Policy. She then summarised achievements by Solomon Islands Women and the government after the 1995 Beijing Conference. Among many, these included the establishment of a Counselling Centre by Church Women's groups; the establishment of a Family Support Centre by the National Council of Women, YWCA and the Ministry for Women; more gender awareness programmes by both the government and NGOs; and the 50 per cent increase in the number of scholarships offered by the government for girls in 1996. She directed participants to the rest of the country paper, which concerned the following women's issues: education and training, health and population, women in decision making, women and domestic violence, women in economic development and the status of women in private and public life.

Tokelau

118. The Representative of Tokelau introduced her country's presentation on the advances of women since the Beijing Conference. She noted that the women of Tokelau had not made great advances in local positions of authority, which were taken by family heads and village elders, but some progress had been made at the national level, with women selected for policy-making positions. She noted that Tokelau's

isolation (30 hours by boat to the nearest airport - Apia) protected it from western influences, and cultural values and family structures were very strong there. However, there was a lack of awareness of women's issues and rights, which needed to be addressed first by educating the women of Tokelau in these areas.

Tonga

119. The Representative from the Kingdom of Tonga indicated that, after prioritising its work activities for the next three years, implementation of CEDAW is yet to be on the agenda. In a recent study of Men and Women in the workforce, it was concluded that the status of women in Tonga far over rides that of men and recommended that a 'Men's Affairs Unit' be established. The Representative stated that Tonga had made gradual but effective progress regarding the advancement of women since Beijing. They had considered the 12 Critical Areas of Concerns in the Global Platform for Action and, on the basis of relevancy, prioritised four areas of concerns, which included the Strengthening of the Women's National Machineries, women's economic empowerment, sustainable development and gender awareness. She stated the over-riding priority for the women of Tonga, however, remained the strengthening of the Family Unit which was Her Majesty the Queen of Tonga's commitment for Tonga at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

120. In the NGO sector, they have included the four national priorities as mentioned above, in their work agenda. In addition, they have included Family, Culture, Health and the Environment. Overall, the Post-Beijing activities in Tonga have been a process of reviewing, consultation, evaluation and refocussing. This has resulted in the development of a Three-Year Work Programme for both government and the NGO women, which was made possible through technical assistance from UNIFEM. Copies of these Plans can be made available on request.

Tuvalu

121. The Representative of Tuvalu noted that the country greatly depended on the National Council of Women and Women's Affairs Office to advocate gender issues. The government has recognised the value and importance of these bodies, and ensures that project proposals are channelled through the Council. To ensure that as much is accomplished under the PPA as possible, the following areas of concern have been prioritised: implementation of a legal rights programme, formulation of National Policy for Women, skills training at the local level (nutrition, food preservation etc.), development of preventative health programmes for women, and follow-up workshops to the outer islands, environment-relating issues, Violence Against Women and Project Planning and Management.

122. The Co-ordinator of the Tuvalu National Council of Women focused on Tuvalu's progress in ratification of CEDAW. This year the first workshop on CEDAW was held. The goal was to explain CEDAW to Tuvalu women, who were unsure about this Convention, and unaware that it protected and extended their rights. The Co-ordinator also requested that Tuvalu women be included in as many SPC programme workshops as possible in future.

123. The National Council of Women had plans to conduct workshops on women in Politics whereby the women are to be sensitised on the issue. More women are now occupying senior posts in the government. In making-decision body, women's participation is also recognised as a few had been appointed recently into to committee such as the Board of Directors of the National Hotel and a woman being appointed the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission.

124. More women are now operating small income-generating activities, however there is still a need for women to be trained in how to manage this kind of activities in order to have sustainable financial.

Vanuatu

125. The Representative of Vanuatu registered her delegation's thanks to the Women's Development Adviser for her significant contribution to the cause of Pacific women, and paid tribute to her hard work and achievements, both for Vanuatu and the region as a whole. Regarding her country's progress since Beijing,

she noted that it was impossible to isolate women's development at the local and national level from what was happening at regional and international levels. She considered that one of the major issues for Vanuatu women's development was the integration of women's concerns in national policies, and decision-makers were beginning to realise this. One of the main activities since Beijing had been the summarising of the GPA, and translation into user-friendly English and Bislama, so that it was accessible to local women. In addition, a workshop was held on those critical concerns of most relevance to Vanuatu women: health, education and training, empowerment, women in development, agriculture and fisheries, mechanisms to advance the status of women. Training programmes have been run in agriculture and fisheries, and are at the stage where they would benefit from assistance from SPC for further development. Other activities have been carried out in the areas of culture and the family, violence against women (15 workshops in three years for both male and female participants) and shared-decision-making. An extension centre for Violence Against Women has been established in Santo, and it is hoped further centres will be set up in other areas. The Ministry of Women's Affairs has established the position of male counsellor, who addresses the domestic violence issue from the man's viewpoint. The National Council of Women is training women leaders to make them more politically effective. Economic empowerment is considered extremely important, and best accomplished through skills training. The Micro-credit scheme addresses a number of the issues of concern (empowerment, health, agriculture etc.), and caters for women from the suburban, areas of town, who have very little education to no schooling at all, on a pilot basis.

Wallis and Futuna

126. The Representative of Wallis and Futuna noted that her territory had not submitted a specific country paper, but said she would speak on achievements in the advancement of women since the Beijing Conference nonetheless. She began with an overview of Wallis and Futuna's history, noting the strong Catholic influence in the territory, the relationship between monarchical and democratic rule on both islands (which are traditionally kingdoms and chiefdoms), and the territory's ties to France. She noted that for Wallis and Futuna, CEDAW was in fact ratified when the French Government approved it. While French law protects women, western influences have started to affect the traditional society – television has been available for 10 years, and radio for 15 now, and modern social problems consequently emerge. The Women's Council was established in 1993, just prior to Beijing. The Council focuses on training in handicrafts, along with social issues such as domestic violence, because the production of handicrafts is the major income-generating venture for the territory's women. She added that the Council had requested assistance from SPC in this area since the beginning of the year, and hoped that this might be forthcoming.

Western Samoa

127. The Representative of Western Samoa presented her country's report of Progress in the Implementation of the Pacific Region Platform for Action. As a result of technical assistance provided by the New Zealand Government, consultations with women in villages and NGOs (as well as government officials) were undertaken in 1992 by the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Information taken from the consultation process was used as a basis in the identification of the following 14 priority areas for policy and programme development: culture and tradition; database on the social and economic position of women; women's unpaid work; small business development; vocational training, agricultural training and employment opportunities; health; including access to clean water; violence, including legal literacy and pre-school services; women in public life; preparation of Western Samoa's first CEDAW report; mechanisms of working with other government departments; communication with women; access to finance; and training. She concluded by noting that much progress had been made in the implementation of the PPA through Western Samoa's Plan of Action. She added that it might be necessary to rethink the conceptual focus of how women must fit into an essentially man-made world; a focus on gender and development would emphasise that women's issues cannot be viewed in isolation – all development activities affect women.

128. The Observer from the Pacific Council of Churches explained that her organisation prepared its work plan with the PPA and the GPA very much in mind. She thanked the Women's Development Adviser for inviting her to attend the Conference, and hoped that this would signal the beginning of greater

collaboration between the PWRB and the Council, given that they address similar issues. She recalled the Princess of Tonga's final statement in her address to the Conference that unity was crucial to the advancement of the goals of Pacific Women.

The Pacific Platform for Action for the advancement of Pacific women – An analysis

129. The Women's Development Adviser introduced Dr Pak Po-Hi, Director of the Korea Institute for Social Information and Research. She explained to the Conference that the PWRB, recognising that most of those participating as either delegates or observers at the Conference had been closely involved in the preparation of the Platform for Action, had invited Dr Pak as a renowned scholar to provide an objective analysis of the PPA. She noted that the PPA was a vital rather than a stagnant document, and should be amended to incorporate emerging issues and views. She added that one of the goals of the analysis had been to cluster the existing 13 Critical Areas of Concern to facilitate the implementation of their action plans.

130. Dr Pak then presented Working Paper 9 – The Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Pacific Women – an Analysis. She explained that to facilitate her analysis of the PPA, she had divided her review into two parts: planning and management, and targeting and target setting.

Planning and management of social development programmes with particular reference to the Platform for Action for Pacific women

131. Dr Pak explained that because the mandates of the PPA are highly complex and daunting to implement, the purpose of her paper was to explore planning and management approaches that could facilitate the task at hand in the developing context of the region. She had considered a reductive approach to problem definition and strategy (focusing on where and how in the configuration of goals/objectives and possible means towards achieving the goals should a policy or programme intervene for maximum effect), and the PPA and the reductive process (focusing on relating the wide range of action components and targets to their hypothetical relationships assumed with the PPA's major concerns).

132. She noted that unpredictable and ever-changing social and political situations required a flexible approach to planning, where social programme management was viewed as a continuous process of plan formulation and reformulation. Two ways to render flexible programmes were suggested – the incremental and modular approaches – with the latter favoured by Dr Pak, because it better accommodated uncertainties. She noted that one area lacking action components in the PPA was science and technology, which were gaining in significance for women in the region. Actions should also be included to address the impact of commodity price changes, and taxes, for the PPA to be fully effective.

133. She favoured a 'building block' approach to modular planning, where although only part of a block may be chosen, the integrity of the policy option represented in it does not suffer because the desired goals and objectives are taken into account in all the sets of blocks representing policy alternatives. She also noted that political will was a dominant factor in development, and that a modular approach to programme planning and management is likely to serve well regarding the shifting balance of power among various political groups with diverging interests. Regarding development politics and people's participation, she noted that development policy decisions are highly subject to political factors, so that decisions will more often than not go the way of the dominant power group despite the goodwill of both policy-makers and ordinary citizens. She concluded by suggesting that common sense seemed to indicate that what should be striven for is truly integrated development planning that takes the totality of socio-economic and policy realities and their relationships into account, and produces holistic responses to those realities and relationships.

134. The Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands asked Dr Pak whether women at the grass-roots level would receive adequate benefits from the PPA's action components given the competition for resources.

135. Dr Pak noted that women at the grass-roots level were often poor, and unaware of their potential, and that it was necessary to target them as priority recipients of activities in areas such as health and education.

136. The Representative of Guam asked Dr Pak to clarify her point that under heuristic approaches, quantitative parameters were adjusted to fit fixed packages, suggesting that project implementation data were adjusted to fit the expectations of a programme.

137. Dr Pak explained that what she meant was that the population coverage and level of benefits of action components could be adjusted upwards or downwards depending upon the availability of resources.

138. The Representative of Guam noted that in the modular approach, social goals were used as a starting point as basic assumptions. He asked Dr Pak to elaborate on what basic assumptions would be used in the implementation of the modular approach to assist women at the grass-roots level.

139. Dr Pak explained that the advantage of the modular approach was that 'building block' action components could be selected based on your selection of a target population. She added that without having specific information about the indigenous population of Guam, she was unable to go into a more detailed explanation.

140. The Representative of Vanuatu noted that the ongoing political changes in her country had made it very difficult to formulate medium- or long-term plans for women's development.

141. Dr Pak explained that the advantage of a modular approach to the implementation of action plans was that which activity blocks were selected depended partly on what political leaders would allow. For example, if a government was not supportive of women being politically active in parliament, other areas such as economic empowerment and health could be emphasised without straying from the objectives of the PPA. She added that the popularity of women's issues world-wide should be utilised by women, and that women should recognise that times of political insecurity were effective opportunities to lobby leaders for action.

142. The Representative of New Zealand pointed out that the rational model of planning and management discussed by Dr Pak in her paper had been largely replaced in New Zealand during the course of restructuring by devolved planning at all levels. She noted that in New Zealand funding for social programmes was not only limited but ever-decreasing, and this forced women at the grass-roots levels to pursue other options, such as income generation through arts and handicrafts. She added that it was always a highly-motivated core group that mobilised the rest of the population on political issues. She felt that indigenous women had to work together in their quest for economic independence.

Targeting & target-setting

143. Dr Pak said targeting and target-setting represent two separate but inter-linked facets of decision in policy formulation and programme planning. The former relates to priority or goal-setting and represents essentially the qualitative dimension while the latter represents the quantitative.

144. She said development planners are usually guided by policy and resource parameters highly subjective to value judgement and political requirements of decision-makers. She said the task now facing Pacific policy makers in implementation of the PPA is the need to choose from among them those that are most appropriate in their respective socio-economic settings and to determine the level of qualitative targets for each of the chosen goals/objectives.

145. Dr Pak said targeting and target-setting (TTS) should ideally proceed along a rational path. Economic rationality is important but should be examined in terms of its relationship to people over time.

146. She said there were four approaches to targeting and target-setting: goal, population group, baseline and resource-related approaches. The first two represent primarily the qualitative dimension of TTS and the latter two primarily the quantitative dimension, although the division between the two is not always clear-cut.

147. Dr Pak said assuming many of the developing countries in the Pacific would not be able to implement all the action plans at once, the first consideration in TTS would be to decide which of the major goal or objective categories should receive priority attention.

148. She said the dynamic nature of the inter-linkages that exist between the various goals and action proposals of the PPA point to the importance of analysing the relationships between major goal sectors, their respective sub goals and the action components in terms of their functions and relative methodologies. She said various actions whose methodologies for certain ends are widely acknowledged should be undertaken although they may be only partially reflected in the PPA. These include: basic health, literacy, legal and institutional support, expertise and/or skills, motivation, community or group solidarity, effective leadership and management, timing, location, level of resource inputs, quality of relationships and the importance of participation for successful social action.

149. Dr Pak said a frequent practice in selecting a target population is to go by the "most applicable" criterion, for example, the poorest of the poor (ie. the most in need) in the case of anti-poverty programmes. Another less common criterion in social programme planning is to choose the groups likely not only to make the most of a social programme but to influence groups to follow (ie. the "elite" approach). The elite approach in population selection is not equitable; however, if resources are inadequate, the approach is a useful strategy in working towards eventual equity.

150. She said gender and age as criteria for target population cannot be considered apart from policy and/or programme goals. Goal selection is not only need-based but subject to value perceptions and political requirements of decision makers. She said up to now, various subjective and political considerations continue to exclude women from important social and economic programmes.

151. Dr Pak said accurate baseline data are seldom available for assessing goal and sub goal categories of the agenda. She said baseline data in the GPA needed to be effective to establish baseline data in countries.

152. She said a potentially useful illustration of the importance of creating the "critical mass" and avoiding an "overkill" could be found in primary health care. Here, the interventive input requirements are usually greatest when the level of national resource is lowest.

153. On the subject of multi-sectoral planning, Dr Pak said the two most common reasons given for the meagre level of resource allocation for social sector programmes have been the lack and priority of economic development as a precondition for social investments. She said implicit in this rationale is the notion that resource inputs to economic projects are productive while those to social programmes are consumptive. However, the fallacy of this argument is being recognised recently.

154. In summary, Dr Pak said:

- (a) Measures articulated in the PPA, if adequately implemented, would bear directly on its other important concerns: the family, human rights, peace and justice and sustainable development etc.
- (b) The major and sub goals and action items for each of the goals are inter-linked in achieving its basic goals of human rights and sustainable development.
- (c) In-depth research needs to be carried out to understand the actual functions of action items in relation to goals/objectives; understand interactions between action items; identify missing action items and breakdown proposed actions.

- (d) Some action categories may be time-bound as instruments of economic empowerment.
- (e) Selection of goals/actions must keep pace with stages of a country's development.
- (f) Accurate baseline data are seldom available to achieve goals and sub-goals.

155. Dr Pak said most country reports had reflected problems such as violence in the family, drug abuse and lack of support to implement projects. She acknowledged success achieved in women's participation in the health and education sectors, women's participation in the economy and their success as entrepreneurs and the establishment of national women's machineries.

156. Dr Pak agreed that the mobilisation of a core group was essential, but that it was difficult for such groups to make any headway unless they had support from political leaders, and close links with outside groups. She emphasised that it was very important to establish outside links, and noted that in her country, people tended to listen more attentively to outsiders, who provided objectivity and resources not available inside many countries.

157. The Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands pointed out that in her experience, the difficulty with bringing in outsiders was that national groups were offended because they felt their abilities were being slighted, and that it was difficult to strike a happy balance.

158. Dr Pak said that the answer to this common concern was in preparing the introduction of outside help: once a core group was identified, the indigenous leadership should be supported, the infrastructure of the population studied, and later contact established with outsiders. She felt that if the need was an authentic one, and promoted as such, resistance should not be so strong.

159. The Representative of American Samoa noted that unity was the best approach to achieving results, through a stronger voice.

160. The Representative of the Cook Islands supported Dr Pak's assertion that there had not been sufficient attention to science and technology concerns in the PPA, and that these issues were now of great concern to Pacific women, particularly in terms of employment. She hoped that this concern would be incorporated in future regional plans of action.

161. Dr Fairbairn-Dunlop thanked Dr Pak for her excellent evaluation of the PPA, which was a continuously evolving document, and congratulated the PWRB for its foresight in engaging Dr Pak's services as a consultant, continuing the process of review and reformulation. She added that linkages between women at all levels and resource networking were crucial to women's development, and that women's development was indivisible from the development of families, communities and nations.

162. Ms Nicole Waia, journalist from Radio Djido in New Caledonia, noted that the PPA relates more to independent nations than dependent territories. She noted that a serious problem in New Caledonia was the deficit generated in the CAFAT medical insurance scheme, which greatly affected health care for less-affluent women in the territory. She asked whether in order to avoid major deficits in health care and social programmes, NGOs should focus on preventative medicine.

163. Dr Pak explained that while she was not a specialist in this area, there was a growing interest in developing countries in traditional remedies and indigenous medicine. She also noted that alternative forms of health insurance and social security, operated on a small scale, were a possible alternative, and she was always in favour of exploring such new and innovative solutions to old problems.

164. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative of Guam said Dr Pak's paper offered much material for moral debate in relation to target populations.

(b) In reply, Dr Pak said in any situation a lead group contributed to the overall development of a country. For instance: women in textile and food processing provided the push for economies to take off.

165. The Representative of Fiji, referring to Annex I of Dr Pak's address, said the paper made no mention of which particular programme arm of the SPC would act as the "Action Host" (lead actor). In addition, the Representative requested that SPC/PWRB consider the identification of programme arms that would take on this "lead actor" role to address each action.

166. The Women's Development Adviser said this could provide the framework for future PWRB action, particularly integration of programmes and taking account of other WID players in region. It was a holistic approach which attempted to avoid duplication of activities.

167. The Representative of New Zealand suggested each island look toward merchandising as a means of generating employment and income.

168. The NGO Representative from Vanuatu outlined the country's reform process with private-sector-led growth and said women's organisations were facing difficulties in seeking private sector assistance to implement programmes.

Panel discussion on the five core issues of the PPA

169. This panel discussion was chaired by Dr Pak Po-Hi. The five core issues discussed were: physical quality of women's life, empowerment of women, enhancement and protection of women's and indigenous people's rights, women's contribution in the realisation of just and peaceful societies in the Pacific and institutional arrangements and mechanisms.

170. Mr Graeme Brown, the SPC Statistician, presented Working Paper 10 – Physical quality of women's life. He emphasised that one of the problems with measuring physical quality of life is that it is difficult to quantify other than very broadly. He said that one major difficulty was a lack of units to measure progress in social issues, noting that it was impossible to quantify the benefits of increased education versus those of enhanced nutrition, for example. An additional problem was the quality and scarceness of data, with national censuses as the primary data sources.

171. The Statistician felt that his role was to advise and support national statistical offices regarding data collection on physical quality of life, rather than try to impose SPC's priorities on these bodies. He then outlined some of the issues that policy-makers might look for when considering statistical data on physical quality of life, including: unwise reliance on gross domestic product figures to the exclusion of other data, age distribution (crucial in the planning of many services such as education, health and for aged persons), and the over-complicated presentation of data. He warned that a number of so-called simple quality-of-life indicators, such as income, were in fact very complex, because personal income and how this is distributed across the population provides a more complete picture; a major difficulty is that although income is often generated by one person, it is often then shared with other family or household members. He concluded that national leaders need to take control by seeing themselves as the clients of information providers such as statistical offices, and derive maximum benefit from their data.

172. The Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia inquired where the Statistician had extracted the data on FSM that appeared in his paper.

173. The Statistician explained that the data for the FSM had been compiled from the 1994 FSM census of population and housing.

174. The Representative of Guam inquired whether the SPC Statistical Programme had an almanac of Pacific statistical information available.
175. The Statistician replied that the Programme's role is to assist Island member countries and territories to perform such analyses themselves.
176. The Conference Chairperson, speaking as the Representative of Papua New Guinea, asked whether it was possible to develop statistical indicators for the work of Pacific women in implementing the PPA.
177. The Statistician replied that it was possible, depending on the data, but there was a problem of international standards versus national priorities. The coverage and scope varies from one island nation to another, and therefore there is a difficulty in making comparisons.
178. The Representative of Guam noted that his government has been involved in a five-year project to gather statistical data to manage taxation and budgeting for cash flow. He requested the SPC Statistician's help in making this information more gender-sensitive and specifically asked that he contact the Government of Guam.
179. Dr Southern asked if SPC could investigate the development of a measuring instrument for women's activities, developing Pacific standards to complement the existing international standards.
180. The Representative of Vanuatu noted that during her government's reform process, a need had been identified for more information on women's activities.
181. The Statistician noted that the Programme had produced a publication on non-market production, available from the Secretariat. SPC would attempt to respond to any request for assistance from the national statistical office.
182. The Observer from ESCAP informed the Conference that the United Nations had been trying to develop a trial minimum list of social indicators as a starting point to addressing this need. She noted however that one important concern currently lacking from the list was domestic violence, an issue of growing importance in the region. She added that one of the problems was the lack of reliable data for cross-country comparisons.
183. The Statistician replied that while national statistical offices in the region were well aware of the UN list, one of the problems they faced was resource constraints, which would make it difficult to collect such data. He clarified his view of SPC's role in such matters, which he saw as one of advice and assistance, rather than imposing policy. He added that as Dr Pak had mentioned in her earlier presentation, political pressure is a very effective tool, and might assist in this case.
184. Dr Pak observed that women must argue their cause from the basis of facts, yet national offices needed the legislative mandate and budgetary support from their governments to address these data collection needs.
185. The Statistician added that on the issue of domestic violence, because of the cultural sensitivity of this matter it would be extremely difficult to collect reliable survey data, and international comparisons would be fraught with danger.
186. The NGO Representative from Vanuatu believed that despite the difficulties, domestic violence was such a serious issue that the collection of reliable data on it should be on everyone's agenda. Her organisation had collected some data, and would appreciate the assistance of the SPC Statistician in advice concerning its reliability.
187. Dr Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Consultant, introduced Working Paper 11 – Empowerment of Women. She divided her presentation into four sections: empowerment, as a cross-cutting issue; economic

empowerment; 'where to from here'; and empowerment through print. Regarding women's economic empowerment, she noted that the initial priority for many families was just getting enough money to survive, in an environment of downsizing public sectors and emerging poverty. She pointed out that one problem facing Pacific Islanders was that not only had formal economies not expanded, but traditional subsistence economies were in transition, resulting in families that were more cash-dependent with fewer opportunities to earn. Drugs and alcohol abuse, domestic violence could be traced to changing family structures.

188. She noted that empowerment was not only a legal question, or a matter of ensuring that women held a certain number of parliamentary seats. It also involved attitudes and options. There was also a need to re-invest gains in empowerment back in stabilising the goals of communities. After Beijing the focus had been on addressing women's problems from the top 'out', but she felt that empowerment was necessary in every domain: socially, economically and politically, and that equity (i.e. empowerment for women at all levels of authority) was essential, given that sustainability was based on equity. Empowerment must be at all levels, in all programmes, and every activity was an opportunity for empowerment.

189. She noted that one of the benefits of empowerment was that it had a multiplier effect. Regarding the question of poverty in the Pacific, she felt that it was counterproductive to pretend that it did not exist, and the real question was how poverty affects women and families. She then discussed the case study of the Women's Social and Economic Development Programme (WOSED), which is based on the premise that credit and/or saving is the catalyst that will enable women to develop family resources to effect change, and thereby contribute to the fulfilment of their personal and family development. It has been recognised that the economic benefits of micro-credit are greater than expected, acting as a trigger point for economic activity. The loans can also result in families increasing their assets, which in turn can have benefits for health, and better use of time; thus economic empowerment transfers to empowerment in other spheres. She noted that it also provided a group support, particularly important for those new to urban areas. It also has a networking effect, such as in the case of WOSED, which assisted in the training of women in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. She felt that the failure of micro-credit in the past has been due to the problems of the systems implemented.

190. She pointed out that while it was usually assumed that women would seek bigger loans, in fact they were more interested in smaller, lateral business development. She felt, however, that credit was not enough: technology must go hand in hand with it. She pointed out that the more complex the technology involved in producing a product, the better the returns for those involved. Most previous programmes had failed to recognised the importance of the technology component.

191. The Representative of the Cook Islands noted that the greatest problem with micro-enterprises was finding profitable markets for the sale of handicrafts and other income-generating items, because the small economies rely so heavily on tourism.

192. Dr Fairbairn-Dunlop noted that the idea was that these items be demand linked, and promoted in local markets if possible. Regarding the issue of the representation and role of women in media, she felt that this was an area that required attention, in terms of the formulation of policies, women's stories, mainstreaming of women's issues, staffing policies, treatment of issues and media appointments in countries. She noted that a very successful and empowering project in Western Samoa had been the recently-completed book of oral histories about the lives of nine elderly women, which chronicled the role of women in the post-colonial Pacific through to the present.

193. She noted that there was a triangular relationship between micro-credit, good management and appropriate and innovative technology.

194. Dr Fairbairn-Dunlop also informed the Conference of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women Scientists and Technologists on Mobilising Science and Technology for Sustainable/Equitable Economic Growth. The principal focus of this forum was the identification of the data and information needed to support the creation of biotechnology parks, and income generation activities in the biotechnology parks to address the

economic empowerment of poor women. The idea was to develop sustainable income-generating ventures through research and development, through activities such as post-harvest fisheries, button-making and medicines. A regional forum, scheduled for 1998, is in the planning stages.

Enhancement & Protection of women's & indigenous people's rights

195. The Representative of New Zealand (Ministry of Women's Affairs) presented Working Paper 12. She outlined the historical and current position of Maori women. She then discussed the strategies the NZ Ministry of Women's Affairs was taking to enhance the rights of Maori women.

196. She said problems faced by Maori women were similar to those facing indigenous women all over the world. She said in pre-European contact times, Maori women were at the centre of society and had their own *mana*, power and authority, separate, but complementary, to men. They were chieftainesses and were active and central participants in major decision-making. In some cases women took over roles from higher-status males and females; Maori girls were trained in many roles and were not confined to being mothers and homemakers.

197. She said weaving was essential and fundamental to Maori society; Maori women were medicine women and much of the literature, which is rich in poetry, oratory and tribal history, was composed and taught by women. At the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, Maori women had an expectation they would continue to play a central role in decision-making. However, the effects of colonisation have illustrated the disadvantaged position of Maori women and girls. Maori women are still under-represented in the professions and have lower median incomes than any other group. She said today Maori women were trying to reclaim this power.

198. She said activities of the Ministry of Women's Affairs included: increasing the number of Maori women on its nominations data-base from approximately 300 to 330 for the financial year to June 30, 1997; the publication of a gender analysis document; the staging of a statistics forum to improve the quality of statistical information on the Maori; the promotion of good housing, health care, support for care-givers, action against domestic violence, freedom from discrimination and a fair portrayal of women by the media; and improving women's economic autonomy.

199. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative of Fiji asked whether quotas had been set to increase the participation of Maori women on boards; and whether a Civil Service mechanism existed to promote this:
- (b) The Representative of New Zealand (Ministry of Women's Affairs) replied the Ministry had a nomination service for women.
- (c) The NGO Representative of the Maori Women's Development Fund presented her organisation's report on the above topic.
- (d) She said the Noumea Declaration and implementation of the PPA were an excellent basis for Pacific women's advancement. She highlighted Maori women's participation in business, employment, education. She said there were 1200 *marae* (meeting houses) in Aotearoa with each one having sections managed by women. She said this management entailed planning, budgeting, purchasing, cooking and catering.
- (e) She said the main aim of the Maori Women's Development Fund was to enable Maori women to have access to credit and participate in the economy. She said there were 4000 Maori women in business, and a 90 per cent survival rate had been achieved.

- (f) The NGO Representative said the Waitangi Treaty added to the quest of the Maori for self-determination and constituted the Maori presence in Aotearoa.
- (g) She said the creations of individual artists must be protected and recognised in terms of intellectual property rights. She suggested the SPC Economics unit identify and establish export markets through Aotearoa, France, the United Kingdom and the USA.
- (h) At the end of the presentation, the NGO Representative made a cultural presentation (*Koha*) to the NGO Representative of New Caledonia. This was followed by a song (*Waita*). The Representative of the New Caledonia NGO then made a reciprocal gesture.

Women's contribution to the realisation of just and peaceful societies in the Pacific

200. The Representative of Wallis & Futuna presented Working Paper 13. She said justice was an impartial, moral and Christian quality which incited citizens to respect rights. She said in March 1996, a list of women candidates was presented during the Territorial elections but women lost by 11 votes and were told not to appeal against this as the decision had been made by male candidates from same party.

201. She said in dealing with the social aspect of justice, one was addressing relationships between humans. She said one also needed to take into account the cultural and technical revolution. She said the French revolution was a turning point economically and socially.

202. She said women's status would change if women worked together. The Beijing Women's Conference provided the opportunity for governments and NGOs to collaborate closely and this needed to continue to ensure implementation of critical concerns. The Representative said the issue of Peace was paramount in the document's critical areas of concern. She said universal peace could only be attained if unity was achieved.

203. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative from the Pacific Council of Churches had taken on a peace campaign in 1994 which involved seven cities. She said it was necessary to unite to make the principles of peace a reality.
- (b) The NGO Representative from Vanuatu said her organisation had linked with the Baha'i community to work on promoting peace.
- (c) The Representative from NZ said the Maori Women's Welfare League had also forged links with organisations to promote peace. In addition, they had lobbied against nuclear testing on Mururoa Atoll. On another subject, she said the concept of restructuring had meant more single mothers were moving into the workforce while their partners remained at home.
- (d) The Representative of Western Samoa said women needed to first acquire peace within themselves before being able to seek a world solution to the issue.
- (e) The Representative of American Samoa said women were second to God in the quest for peace.

Institutional arrangements/Mechanisms

204. The Representative of Papua New Guinea presented Working Paper 14. She said the Papua New Guinea Department of Home Affairs was not transparent enough and needed to network with women's and youth groups to make an impact.

205. She said a lot of discrepancy existed in the government women's machinery and the country's national women's movement; both needed to dialogue and point their focus in same direction. She said a solid working partnership needed to be created between women; there was a need to promote the presence of NGOs and women's groups in government circles and promote capacity-building.

206. The Representative said it was necessary to provide decision-makers with data and canvass assistance from donors and the SPC to facilitate this.

207. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative of the Cook Islands said the paradigm shift in the relationship between governments and NGOs meant a need for transparency for effectiveness and efficiency.
- (b) The Representative of the National Council of Women in Western Samoa said women had been effective in developing strong regional networks but were not so effective in building local networks which appeared to be crucial. She said this needed to be addressed.
- (c) The Representative of Papua New Guinea said a local network existed but was not recognised by decision-makers.
- (d) The Chairperson said, on the subject of peace, a conflict arose because at times peace could not be attained without conflict and sometimes aggressive confrontation was necessary before peace could be achieved.
- (e) The NGO Representative from New Caledonia outlined the work of the Women's Federation for World Peace.

Workplan of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau towards the year 2000

208. The Women's Development Adviser presented Working Paper 15: Work plan of the PWRB towards the Year 2000. She said the PPA was the authoritative document on objectives and strategies for the advancement of Pacific women to the Year 2000. She said the document was the initiative of the PWRB following awareness-raising sub-regional conferences in 1993.

209. The WDA said the PWRB was responsible for co-ordination and participation of 18 Pacific Countries and Territories to the Beijing world conference on women. She said many activities had taken place in the Pacific Island region since Beijing to implement concerns raised in the PPA which was a pact with regional governments to which the SPC, as an inter-governmental agency, was accountable. As such, she said the PWRB should be recognised as the regional lead agency for the advancement of women in the region.

210. The Women's Development Adviser said a mechanism was needed to consolidate emerging needs since the PPA's formulation three years ago. She said the PPA had been re-visited since then and its 13 critical areas of concern had now been grouped into five core issues: the physical quality of women's life; empowerment; enhancement and protection of women's and indigenous people's rights; contribution of women to peace and justice; institutional arrangements/mechanisms.

211. She said an analysis of the core issues illustrated women's physical quality of life; indigenous people's rights and peace and justice as the desired "ends" while empowerment and institutional arrangements/mechanisms were the "means". The PWRB's role is to aid countries achieve the means.

212. She proposed the work plan focus on education and training, economic empowerment and information empowerment with services being provided through an integrated approach using all programme arms of the SPC.

213. She alluded to Dr Pak's report saying there appeared to be no example of country efforts in the region to systematically pull the social components in development plans together and incorporate them in a holistic development plan.

214. She said the PWRB would maintain its traditional role as a regional co-ordinating body, particularly in the organising of skills exchange programmes and small-scale financial support to women's groups. She proposed the PWRB take on a new initiative to facilitate and co-ordinate regional/sub regional seminars/workshops/caucuses on the PPA's desired "ends" through use of the SPC's Peacesat facility.

215. The Women's Development Adviser said the Bureau saw the need to work with international agencies in the area of WID in the region to maximise benefits and avoid duplication of activities.

216. She said an important emerging role of the Bureau was information dissemination through the Internet and various UN agencies active in the area of WID in the region.

217. In closing, she recommended:

- (a) That the conference endorse the proposed PWRB work plan;
- (b) That the conference endorse the extension of the PWRB network and services to indigenous Pacific women in New Zealand and Australia.

218. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative of Kiribati asked how the SPC would collaborate with development agencies.
- (b) The Women's Development Adviser said the Bureau would work with agencies already active in the area of WID to avoid duplication.
- (c) The Representative of Fiji thanked the Bureau for the extensive plan to implement the PPA particularly in legal and political empowerment. She asked the SPC to consider assisting national focal points to ratify CEDAW and aid those who had already ratified the Convention to implement its articles.
- (d) The Representative of Vanuatu requested more information on the PWRB-administered Small Grants Scheme i.e. the maximum and minimum amounts disbursed; and enquired if capacity-building programmes would be conducted at the SPC or at national level.
- (e) The Women's Development Adviser said the scheme had no fixed amounts as the grants were small amounts and but disbursement depended on the nature of requests from countries. On the subject of capacity building she said specific training requirements needed to be determined at regional and national levels.
- (f) The Representative of American Samoa asked if the government machinery could apply for grants on behalf of NGOs.
- (g) The Women's Development Adviser said this has been the current practice.
- (h) The Representative of New Zealand said the Bureau had presented a positive work plan. On the administration of the Small Grants Scheme she said it was an intensive task given the Bureau's resources and work load and one which could be effectively administered at national level. She said questions at the bilateral level also focused on whether grant schemes undermined credit schemes.
- (i) The Representative of Tonga said her country preferred the scheme continue to be administered by the Bureau.

- (j) The Representative of Vanuatu asked if SPC would provide support for the establishment of centres dealing with violence against women.
- (k) The Women's Development Adviser said the issue of violence was of major concern to women and was a cross-cutting one. She said a holistic approach was needed to address the problem.
- (l) The Chairperson, acting as the Representative of Papua New Guinea, said priorities of donor agencies and women's focal points needed to focus on the same area.
- (m) The Representative of New Caledonia said the Territory supported the need for the Small Grants Scheme but noted that French-speaking territories had other funding sources (local government and France).
- (n) The Representative of Fiji reiterated the need to strengthen the PWRB to effectively implement the PPA's desired 'means'.
- (o) The Representative of the National Council of Women from Western Samoa requested the Bureau consider promoting technical exchange networks and women's interest in technology on global and regional levels and through SPC programme integration. She also emphasised increased promotion of women's concerns through the print media.
- (p) Emele Duituturaga asked if national priorities in terms of National Programmes of Action agreed with activities outlined in the Bureau's work plan. She said the question was whether countries could arrive at a consensus given individual needs and limited resources. She noted the issue of violence appeared to be a major concern and said government and NGO collaboration was necessary here to address the issue effectively.
- (q) The Observer from UNICEF stressed the importance of implementing CEDAW and said it was important to disseminate information on this and generate awareness raising; she also said mainstreaming of gender in SPC programmes was essential and said there was a need to include young women in programmes.
- (r) The Representative of the Solomon Islands said health and population were among priorities but said culture and religion had an impact on women's health. She said the SPC and PCC would be in a good position to take on the issue to enable campaigns to be more effective.
- (s) The Representative of Fiji said the present government/NGO collaboration would continue and expressed support for the PWRB's system of training programmes and meetings and welcomed the Bureau's desire to collaborate with agencies.

Harnessing the complementary potentials of Government and NGOs

219. The Conference separated into government and NGO caucuses, to discuss Harnessing the Complementary Potentials of Government and NGOs. A summary of their discussions follows:

NGO caucus

220. The Representative of the NGO caucus presented the following summary of their deliberations:

The NGO caucus:

- (a) reaffirmed that NGOs act where governments are unable to do so;

- (b) requested that the SPC demonstrate its commitment to equal opportunity employment, by stating that it was an equal-opportunity employer in all advertisements, and adopting a policy of equal participation by gender in workshops and meetings;
- (c) applauded Pacific Island countries and territories with national policies on women;
- (d) encouraged Pacific Island countries and territories to formalise relationships between government and NGO focal points;
- (e) asserted that NGO representatives to regional and international meetings should be selected by NGOs themselves;
- (f) agreed on the following issues of concern as a focus for the next three years: violence, economic empowerment, political education, gender sensitisation, legal literacy, conflict resolution; and management and leadership training;
- (g) requested that the PWRB copy all correspondence directed to government focal points to NGO focal points as well, to improve the flow of information between SPC and NGOs.

221. Dr Fairbairn-Dunlop noted that in some Pacific Island countries and territories, there was no agreed NGO focal point.

222. The Representative of the Fiji Crisis Centre noted that donor and development agencies should recognise that certain programmes were already being conducted by NGOs, and rather than implementing new ones, the existing ones should be strengthened.

223. The Representative from Pacific Wide suggested that while it had been historically difficult for many Pacific Island NGOs to agree on their focal point representatives, it was only necessary for a focal point to have a majority of support. She also felt that it would be a mistake to ask a regional body such as the SPC to regulate or proscribe activities for NGOs.

224. Emele Duituturaga asked the Conference to assist the PWRB by suggesting ways that it could assist the collaboration between NGOs and government organisations.

225. The Representative of Fiji reminded international organisations and development agencies that there were established national protocols involving consultation with NGOs that should be observed before programmes were implemented.

Government caucus

226. The Spokesperson for the government caucus (Representative of Guam) presented his report on its deliberations.

227. The government caucus had focused its discussions on the existing relationships between NGOs and governments in each of the Island countries and territories, and what could be done to improve them. The vast majority of participants in the caucus had explained that these relationships were healthy, such as in the Marshall Islands and Kiribati, where the NGOs were highly-regarded by government organisations and information was readily and happily shared.

228. However, some countries had experienced communication problems, or found it difficult to maintain communication with large numbers of NGOs. He noted that the Representative of Fiji had suggested that a useful service SPC might perform would be the preparation of a directory of NGOs, with information on their objectives and activities. The Chairperson had noted that one problem was that when regional and international organisations went into her country, they would pre-select meeting participants and those they chose to talk to with without consulting the NGOs.

229. The Representative of Tuvalu had expressed her countrywomen's hesitation about CEDAW and the PPA because they were unaware of their benefits. The Representative of American Samoa had suggested that a board within each country might be established to organise its NGOs. The Representative of Western Samoa had made the important point that government organisations should collect information on NGOs, in terms of their areas of specialisation, to simplify the dissemination of information to them.

230. The Representative of the Cook Islands noted that she had in fact suggested that those countries lacking NGO focal points should form boards. She also felt that one of the problems in the NGO-government organisation relationship was the dissemination of information, and that this was the responsibility of the government focal points.

Donor country and Development Agency presentations

231. Presentations were heard from the following observers (only the major subject areas of their presentations are recorded):

New Zealand Overseas Development Agency (NZODA)

- the necessity to consult women in the design, implementation and review of all projects;
- the three major components of NZODA: involving women in aspects of all ODA, targetting women's programmes for support, and effective integration of women in all ODA activities;
- the Women in Development action plan, involving commitment, training, resources, programming, procedures and use of women's expertise;
- the importance of integrating gender issues into consultancies through gender-sensitive model terms of reference;
- NZODA provide assistance for women in development activities in four areas in the Pacific: regional, bilateral, NGOs and good governance.

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

- In 1997/98, Australia will provide \$1.43 billion in overseas development aid, including almost \$319 million for Papua New Guinea, and \$124.7 million for other Island countries in the South Pacific;
- the 1996 independent review of the programme included recommendations for regular gender auditing of programmes, and greater staff resources for gender services;
- the focus regarding gender issue was mainstreaming, including objectives covering the following concerns: access to education, health and economic resources, human rights and the elimination of discrimination against women;
- the Pacific Regional programme is moving towards a competitive selection process for all new activities later in 1997. Guidelines will be available at this time.
- project proposals in the following areas are encouraged: human rights, good governance, health and population and domestic violence;
- organisations and agencies should contact the AusAID Pacific regional desk for more information.

Forum Secretariat (Forsec)

- Forsec, like SPC was one of the regional organisations united under the South Pacific Organisations Co-ordinating Committee (SPOCC);
- participants should bear in mind that action at the micro-economic level can have a significant influence on the macro level;
- country representatives should request that their economics ministers raise gender issues at their July Forum meeting, and report back on the impacts of proposed economic reforms on women.

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

- while SPREP has no formal gender policy as such, it recognises the need to incorporate gender issues in its work programmes;
- men and women play an equal part in the preservation of the environment;
- gender concerns affect all development issues and need to be mainstreamed;
- where possible, SPREP employs Pacific Islanders, and has a reasonably good record in terms of employing women;
- SPREP intends to work closely with the Forsec Gender Adviser and other regional organisations regarding gender issues, and recognises SPC's capacity in this area through the PWRB.

232. Dr Fairbairn-Dunlop said that regarding the integration of gender issues in existing and future programmes, it was essential to set up a baseline study so that efforts could be monitored and evaluated. She also suggested that in addition to the submissions of individual governments the Conference might strongly recommend to the Forum meeting of economics ministers that gender issues be taken into account in their deliberations.

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

- co-ordinates an informal network of country programmes on violence against women, emphasising the dissemination of information to women through phone, fax, mail, and a newsletter;
- noted the establishment of the Pacific Women's Alert, to support women against discrimination;
- delivers training in awareness on violence, literacy, human rights etc.;
- has some money for regional travel, but not enough to conduct in-country training.
- one problem was the sustainability of programmes against violence: these are seen as threatening, and it is very difficult to successfully conduct fundraising at the local level;
- The Representative from the Vanuatu Women's Crisis Centre noted that networks provide essential solidarity and support.

Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)

- reminded participants that a large percentage of the female regional population of the Pacific is young; and that these are the women of tomorrow; just as planners and policy-makers should be sensitive to gender, women should be sensitive to age;

- the South Pacific Centre is one of four regional centres;
- addresses three areas: youth employment, national policy development and human resources development;
- the goal of the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender in Development is to achieve equality for women in all fields.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- UNICEF deals with young people (up to 18 years old) as well as children;
- participants should consider the advocacy benefits of the Convention on Rights of the Child as an example of how an international convention such as CEDAW can be used effectively; the CRC has helped UNICEF to work more closely with governments;
- both conventions talk about the protection of basic human rights, such as health, education and violence.

233. The Representative from the Vanuatu Women's Crisis Centre noted that she had been surprised that the Conference's deliberations had focused almost entirely on CEDAW, without reference to the CRC, and asked the PWRB to lobby for the ratification and implementation of both conventions by SPC members.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

- the Conference was being held at an opportune time for UNDP, given that it was at the beginning of a new funding cycle, and recognised that it should pay more attention to programmes that target women;
- its challenging goal was to channel 25 per cent of its core aid to programmes that benefit women in the upcoming cycle.
- requests to UNDP must be transmitted through official government channels;
- UNDP was re-examining its relationship with NGOs like a number of other agencies;
- UNDP programme areas that coincide with the PPA include the environment, social empowerment, access to education, and economic empowerment.
- the basic literacy component is continued into the next cycle, along with a non-formal education component;
- the cycle will also include labour force management and private sector management policy;
- UNDP will work closely with UNIFEM in the next cycle;
- one single important issue common to both UNDP and SPC was their role in trying to assist women against the burden of emerging poverty;
- the PWRB should produce a directory of professional women in the region.

234. The Chairperson noted that the PWRB does produce such a directory, and also noted that too often external consultants without cultural understandings of countries are selected to carry out in-country work when there are perfectly capable and qualified women available in the region.

235. The Representative of Vanuatu noted that she had experienced a donor organisation trying to dictate the selection of a consultant, and fully supported the Chairperson's point.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- ESCAP is the largest of the five regional commissions of the United Nations;
- it consists of 51 members and nine associate members, including 19 Pacific Island countries and territories;
- one of ESCAP's main activities is to promote regional co-operation, another is helping countries manage the impact of globalisation;
- activities are carried out in standards-setting – ESCAP will convene a meeting of national machinery representatives every two years – monitoring and co-ordination;
- priorities include institutional mechanisms, women in economies, alleviating the feminisation of poverty, human rights of women, education and training, women's rights, violence against women;
- the Statistics division produces gender disaggregated country profiles;
- an emerging agenda is the impact of globalisation on women;
- noted that many Pacific Island countries and territories are taking steps to ratify CEDAW.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

- requested that the PWRB convene a meeting for all players focusing on mainstreaming;
- noted that an important area of concern was multilateral trade agreements, and how these can be used, along with political empowerment.

Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)

- RRRT is effectively a 'good governance' project funded by the British Government;
- it is not a funding agency per se, but provides skills support to governments and NGOs, particularly in the area of legal and human rights of women;
- it provides legal rights training in six PICs;
- it does not support economic activity, but rather legal rights programmes such as legal literacy;
- RRRT provides attachment training adjusted to organisational needs.

236. The Representative of Vanuatu asked the Representative of RRRT about how that organisation selected training officers.

237. The Representative of RRRT explained that her organisation did not limit its selection criteria to any particular country or agency, and that this approach had proved effective.

Progress made in mainstreaming the PICs – Reproductive health/family planning and sexual health needs into Health programme

238. Dr Salesi Katoanga of the UNFPA Country Support Team in Fiji introduced Working Paper 16. He said there were many facets and concepts to health education. He said the family was the strongest basic unit in the Pacific and was where health education should begin. He said 50 per cent of health problems lay with preventive measures not being taken in the family unit.

239. Dr Katoanga said the present health care system had a heavy leaning toward curative rather than preventive health care. He said many women were unaware of their health problems and said sexual health should be defined as being a part of reproductive health. He said the Beijing GPA raised many issues pertinent to women's health but a lack of resources existed to address all of these. He said incidences of AIDS/STDs were also on the rise in the region.

240. Dr Katoanga said many women delayed seeking health care, as the need for this was usually determined by husbands or mothers-in-law. In addition, he said a further problem lay in the delay in reaching care after a decision was made, which usually contributed to an increase in mortality; and another factor was the delay in receiving proper care while in medical confinement.

241. He said many regional governments were now paying more attention to gender issues in the Pacific. He said there was a need to pay more attention to quality health care and requested the SPC to develop quality health indicators.

242. He said laws to protect women's rights were in place but were not put into practise and said all forms of discrimination against women should be removed.

243. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative of the Cook Islands said Cook Island women need to use traditional medicine in the face of dwindling economies and the user-pay health system.
- (b) Dr Katoanga said the lack of resources were a major problem in the region and 80 per cent of maternal deaths could be prevented by proper ante-natal care. He said doctors needed to be educated, particularly on abortion laws etc.

Demographic transition in the Pacific

244. The SPC Population Adviser presented Working Paper 17: Demographic Transition in the Pacific and its Implications for Pacific Women.

245. The Population Adviser said a country's progress in mortality and fertility was portrayed in terms of Demographic Transition based on the DT theory. She said the timings and rate of declines in fertility and mortality vary enormously between and within countries.

246. She said mortality in pre-contact times was not as high in the region as in transitional populations. She said mortality increased on contact as a result of diseases which indigenous populations were not immune to. In post-contact times, mortality trends have varied from country to country.

247. The Population Adviser said the establishment of the Fiji School of Medicine in 1928 shaped the progress of health care in the Pacific. The introduction of antibiotics such as penicillin helped reduce some widespread diseases in the Pacific (eg. Yaws, malaria, leprosy, tuberculosis and infantile diarrhoea.) She said many developing countries including some Pacific Island countries and territories did not regard public health as a development priority.

248. She said the classic demographic transition theory illustrated high fertility would compensate for high mortality. Traditional methods for controlling fertility differ among societies. She said in pre-contact times, fertility had been controlled through practices such as post-partum taboos, prolonged lactation and abortion. Following contact, traditional systems began to disintegrate and some attitudes were abandoned. Consequently, fertility increased substantially. The introduction of STDs (particularly gonorrhoea) had a negative impact on fertility.

249. The Population Adviser said total fertility rates for all countries in the region were moderately high to high. She said while there had been a general decline in fertility in the region there were indications that some countries (Guam, Tuvalu, CNMI and Tokelau) had shown a reversal of trends in recent years.

250. She said family planning was introduced to reduce fertility. The first family planning programme established in the Pacific was in Fiji in 1962. This was successful but progress has since stalled.

251. Migration has also become a major force in shaping population trends in the Pacific Islands. Urban population growth has, in some cases, affected the age and sex structure of populations.

252. The Chairperson then opened the floor for discussion:

- (a) The Representative of Guam observed that the percentage of teenage mothers in Guam was much higher than the figure provided in the Population Adviser's report.
- (b) The Population Adviser agreed but said the figures were provided by the Guam Statistics Department.
- (c) The Representative of Fiji highlighted the high infant mortality rate as outlined in Dr Katoanga's paper and stressed the importance of educating young women as a means of lowering incidences of infant deaths.

Epidemiological transition in the Pacific: Implications for Pacific women

253. The SPC Epidemiologist discussed Epidemiological Transition in the Pacific – Implications for Pacific Women.

254. He said Pacific Islanders experience both high rates of infectious diseases and, to an increasing extent, non communicable diseases (NCDs) or "lifestyle diseases".

255. The Epidemiologist said regional patterns of morbidity and mortality had changed over the last decade from a pattern heavily influenced by infectious diseases to one of rapid increase in NCD's. This is known as the epidemiological transition.

256. He said lifestyle diseases such as heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, cancers and diabetes had reached epidemic levels in recent years and were now the leading cause of death in Pacific Island countries. He said this was caused by increasingly sedentary lifestyles, combined with increased alcohol and tobacco consumption, poor nutrition and social problems such as unemployment.

Activities

257. A series of issue-based workshops on legal literacy; women and health; women in fisheries; micro-credit for women; media (TV, radio, print); micro-enterprises and women's centres in the Pacific were conducted.

Adoption of report

258. The Conference adopted its Report as amended.

Closing

259. Representatives of the Kingdom of Tonga, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Guam and Fiji made presentations to the outgoing PWRB Women's Development Adviser and thanked her for her contribution to the advancement of women in the region.

260. Representatives of Western Samoa, Guam and French Polynesia presented customary gifts to the SPC's DDG (Dr Jimmie Rodgers).

261. The WDA thanked the delegates and said the network of Pacific women built would stand firm for the future. She acknowledged new players in the area of women in development and new workers in the gender debate. She challenged the delegates to continue working toward advancing Pacific women's status and pass on the women's baton to the young women of tomorrow.

262. The SPC's DDG (Dr Rodgers) delivered closing remarks and congratulated the Chairperson and delegates on their achievements. He acknowledged the increasing importance of gender issues in the region and said gender must be addressed at all levels. He thanked the outgoing WDA for her leadership of the PWRB and her contribution to the Commission over the past six years.

263. The Representative of the Pacific Conference of Churches closed the conference with a prayer.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the delegates to the Seventh Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, endorse our support for the Noumea Declaration on Women and Sustainable Development, developed by the Sixth Triennial Conference (May 1994) and based on the Nairobi theme of *Action for Equality, Development and Peace*.

We reaffirm our commitment to forward action in the 13 critical areas of concern outlined in the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA), in:

- health
- education and training
- economic empowerment
- agriculture and fishing
- legal and human rights
- shared decision-making
- environment
- culture and family
- mechanisms to promote the advancement of women
- violence
- peace and justice
- poverty
- indigenous people's rights

and note that our participation in the Beijing World Conference has reinforced our understanding of the strength which Pacific women gain through collective and unified action, and renewed our determination to work together to implement strategies that will improve the quality of life of Pacific women, their families and their communities, and help achieve sustainable development for Pacific countries.

To this end, we support the South Pacific Commission (SPC) proposal presented to the Seventh Triennial Meeting, to regroup the PPA's 13 critical areas of concern into five strategy areas. This regrouping focus will enable clearer identification, implementation and monitoring of SPC's and national programmes to achieve these critical goals. The five strategic planning areas are:

- physical development of women
- empowerment of women economically, socially and legally
- achievement of peace and justice
- enhancement and protection of women's and indigenous people's rights
- institutional arrangements/mechanisms

In line with this, the Seventh Triennial Conference makes the following recommendations:

- **Physical**
 - (1) That the PWRB continue to support UNICEF's efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, through the dissemination of information.
 - (2) That the PWRB continue to support the efforts of agencies like UNFPA and WHO in the promotion and implementation of reproductive health, family planning, sexual health of women and adolescents, with the help of men.

Empowerment

Economic

- (3) That, as part of its programme aimed at the economic empowerment of Pacific women and their families, the PWRB take the lead role in mobilising the research and dissemination of technology to support women's income generation activities (such as value-added technologies), which give priority to environmental stability. Market research will be part of this. This should be done through:
- (a) supporting existing technology-exchange networks, and skills and knowledge exchanges between Pacific women;
 - (b) research on the differential impact of technology on women and women's activities; identifying women's research needs and lobbying for this to be included in sectoral SPC programmes and in technical research carried out in other regional institutions (such as USP);
 - (c) linking into existing Asia-Pacific and global women's technology exchange networks;
 - (d) increased advocacy of policies and programmes to increase the number of girls in science programmes in secondary, tertiary and non-formal training programmes.
- (4) That the Seventh Triennial Meeting of Pacific Women request the Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (July 11, 1997) to consider the implications of economic reforms on Pacific women and their families and report back to Forum countries at their next meeting and through Forum leaders. We request this task be facilitated through the office of the Gender Issues Adviser of the Forum Secretariat, with the support of the Director-General of the SPC.

Social

- (5) That the PWRB begin a process of devising a set of standards for the treatment of gender in the media (including school curriculums and materials) and subsequently indicators for monitoring adherence to these standards. This could be in conjunction with major media organisations, including PINA.
- (6) That the PWRB take the lead role in promoting the recording of oral histories of Pacific women, which will show women's roles in traditional times, through to the present.
- (7) That the PWRB:
- (a) continue to promote the development of the Regional Register of Pacific women consultants and resource persons (for distribution to all donor agencies);
 - (b) assist national women's mechanisms to prepare and update lists of national consultants and resource people and the exchange of this information between countries;
 - (c) encourage donor agencies to consult national/regional lists in the selection of consultants to undertake national consultancies;
 - (d) give special attention to the identification of bi-lingual consultants in (a) to (d).

Political

- (8) That the PWRB develop a directory of bilateral/multilateral donors in the region (particularly new players). This should include:
- (a) Area of focus
 - (b) Funding mechanisms
 - (c) Key criteria for assistance
 - (d) Key individuals.
- (9) That the PWRB, on request:
- (a) disseminate information on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to countries which have yet to ratify the convention;
 - (b) assist those countries which have ratified the convention in the preparation of the first implementation report required for submission within the first two years of ratification.

- **Peace and Justice**

- (10) That a representative from the indigenous peoples of Aotearoa and Australia, and a representative of migrant Pacific women from these countries, be invited as observers to the triennial meetings of Pacific women.

- **Monitoring and data sets**

- (11) That, having recognised the importance of integrating gender concerns in all SPC programmes, the PWRB take the lead in establishing the extent to which gender issues are currently incorporated in SPC programme planning. Following this, the PWRB, in consultation with SPC management, develop criteria and monitoring procedures to ensure progress is made in gender integration of programmes/projects. The gender integration procedures in place in NZODA may be a starter in this process.
- (12) That the PWRB, together with the Statistics Department of the SPC, examine international social and economic core data sets for their relevance to Pacific countries (regional and national). This will enable appropriate outcomes indicators and the respective measuring instruments to be developed for use within and between Pacific countries and internationally. In order to achieve the above, SPC must facilitate Pacific countries to establish a data base system.

V. LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE

SPC/Women 7/WP.1	Pacific Women in action: Shaping the future towards the year 2000
SPC/Women 7/WP.2	Report on action taken by the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau since the 1994 Triennial Conference of Pacific Women
SPC/Women 7/WP.3-8	Gender analysis of SPC programmes (Agriculture, CETC, Marine Resources, Health, Economics, Regional Media Centre)
SPC/Women 7/WP.9	The Pacific Platform for Action for the advancement of Pacific Women – An analysis
SPC/Women 7/WP.10	Physical quality of women's life
SPC/Women 7/WP.11	Empowerment of women
SPC/Women 7/WP.12	Enhancement and protection of women's and indigenous people's rights
SPC/Women 7/WP.13	Women's contribution in the realisation of just and peaceful societies in the Pacific
SPC/Women 7/WP.14	Institutional arrangements/Mechanisms
SPC/Women 7/WP.15	Workplan of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau towards the year 2000
SPC/Women 7/WP.16	Progress made in mainstreaming the PICs – Reproductive health/family planning and sexual health needs into health programme
SPC/Women 7/WP.17	Demographic transition in the Pacific – Implications for Pacific women
SPC/Women 7/WP.18	Epidemiological transition in the Pacific – Implications for Pacific women

VI. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GUEST OF HONOUR:

**H.R.H. Princess Pilolevu Tuita
Kingdom of Tonga**

**Australia
Australie**

Ms Nikki Burns
Social Sector and Gender Section
Australian Agency for International Development
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2601

Ms Kirsty Mitchell
Vice-Consul
Australian Consulate-General
NOUMEA, New Caledonia

**American Samoa
Samoa américaines**

Mrs Tasi Lili'o
Executive Director
National Office for Women
PAGO PAGO

Mrs Starr Schuster
Assistant Chief Registrar
P.O. Box 1793
PAGO PAGO

**Cook Islands
Îles Cook**

Ms Neti Tamarua-Herman
Director
Women's Division
Ministry of Internal Affairs
P.O. Box 98
RAROTONGA

Mrs Frances Topa-Apera
General Secretary
National Council of Women
RAROTONGA

**Federated States of Micronesia
Etats Fédérés de Micronésie**

Mrs Mercedes Santos
FSM Budget
P.O. Box PS 52
PALIKIR, POHNPEI

Ms Tina Takashy

Mrs Maria Babauta

**Fiji
Fidji**

Ms Tupou Vere
Statistician
Department of Women
SUVA

**Fiji (cont'd.)
Fidji (suite)**

Ms Titilia Naitini
Co-ordinator
National Council of Women
SUVA

Ms Sereima Lomaloma
Director for Women
Department for Women & Culture
G.P.O. Box 14068
SUVA

Adi Koila Nailatikau Mara
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
P.O. Box 2220
Government Buildings
SUVA

**French Polynesia
Polynésie française**

Mme Hélène Courte Wabete
Présidence du gouvernement
Cellule « Relations extérieures »
B.P. 2551
PAPEETE

Mme Patricia Sztegmman
Cabinet de Mme Lucette Taero
Ministre de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle
Chargée du dialogue social et de la condition féminine

Mme Yvette Temauri
Centre territorial d'information et des droits
des femmes et familles

Guam

Mr Jonathan Bordallo
Member of the Board of the Bureau
of Women's Affairs
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 2950
AGANA

Ms Nancy Tan

Kiribati

Mrs Kokeaki Koae
Social Welfare Officer
Ministry of Environment & Social Development
P.O. Box 234
Bikenibeu, TARAWA

Mrs Ianeta Claire Baiteke
President
National Council of Women

Marshall Islands
Îles Marshall

Mrs Evelyn Lanki
 Secretary
 Ministry of Social Services
 Women's Affairs Division
 P.O. Box 1138
 MAJURO

Ms Anela Boaz, Secretary of Women's Groups
 Lucia Guavis, Women's Athletic Club
 Loretha Case, Women's Athletic Club
 Lynn Milne, Majuro Yokwe Yuk Club
 Limikit Eradkrik, Majuro Yuk Club
 Dorothy Doulatram, Majuro Yuk Club

Nauru

Ms Joy Heine
 Department of External Affairs

Ms Pamela Scriven
 President
 National Council of Women

New Caledonia
Nouvelle-Calédonie

Mme Denise Kacatr
 Chargée de mission auprès des droits des femmes
 de la Province des Îles
 B.P. 50
 98820 Wé
 LIFOU

Mme Christiane Togna
 Présidente du Conseil des femmes
 NOUMÉA

Mme Nicole Robineau
 Déléguée aux droits des femmes de la Province Sud
 NOUMÉA

Mme Henriette Boi
 Présidente du Conseil des femmes de la
 Province Nord
 KONÉ

Mme Caroline Machoro
 Chargée de mission pour la coopération régionale
 auprès du Président de la Province Nord
 KONÉ

Mme Salo Cécile
 Mme Béarune Francine
 Mme Citré Waejune
 Mme Ngaiohni Rose
 Mme Akapo Edwige
 Mme Kugone Marie-Hélène
 Mme Wadrawane Charlotte

New Caledonia (cont'd.)
Nouvelle-Calédonie (suite)

Mme Begeu Marianne
 Mme Saoulo Charline
 Mme Attawa Yolande
 Mme Gnavit Gisèle
 Mme Ihily Elisa
 Mme Waneux Paulette
 Mme Laoumana Adèle
 Mme Zéoula Paulette
 Mme Haluatr Antoinette
 Mme Honakoko Xejine
 Mme Wacapo Sopa
 Mme Petreissi Ciane
 Mme Melem Azela
 Mme Néporon Angélique
 Mme Berger Kareen
 Mme Miloud Marguerite
 Mme Bécalossi Gladys
 Mme Bécalossi Marie-Claire
 Mme Goetcha Dorothée
 Mme Maperi Judith
 Mme Ounou Madeleine
 Mme Caillard Françoise
 Mme Cassagne Laurène
 Mme Jeanne Gastaldi
 Mme Séra Whapp
 Mme Bisio Gentiane
 Mme Salmon Denise
 Mme Caillard Françoise

New Zealand
Nouvelle-Zélande

Mrs Marion Quinn
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
 Private Bag 18 901
 WELLINGTON

Niue

Mrs Janice Kathleen Jackson (Jenna)
 Community Development Officer
 Women, Youth and Sports
 Community Affairs Department
 P.O. Box 77
 ALOFI

Mrs Fakahula Funaki
 Member Niue Council of Women (N.C.W.)

Northern Mariana Islands
Îles Mariannes du Nord

Ms Rita R. Bailas
 CNMI Government
 P.O. Box 1273
 SAIPAN, MP 96950

Ms Carmen C. Gaskins
 Chairman of the Council for Arts and Culture
 Secretary/Treasurer for the CNMI Humanities Council
 P.O. Box 2252
 SAIPAN, MP 96950

Palau

Mrs Paula R. Holm
 Bureau of Women's Interest Office
 Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs
 P.O. Box 100
 KOROR

Mrs Ayano Baules

Papua New Guinea
Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée

Ms Josephine Gena
 Acting Secretary
 Head of National Women's Machinery
 P.O. Box 7354
 BOROKO, NCD

Dr Miila Gena
 Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Home Affairs

Dr Ann Waiko
 Technical Adviser to the PNG National Council of
 Women

Samoa

Mrs Nele Leilua Masina
 Chief Officer of Programmes & Training
 APIA

Mrs Laufili Pativaine AINU'u
 Vice-President
 National Advisory Committee on Women Development
 APIA

Solomon Islands
Îles Salomon

Ms Clara Doris Bava
 Women's Development Division
 Ministry of Home Affairs
 HONIARA

Ms Alice Puia
 Secretary-General
 National Council of Women

Tokelau

Fuluiole Ioapo
 Atafu
 Tokelau Apia Liaison Office
 P.O. Box 865
 APIA
 Samoa

Hatesa Lopa

Tonga

HRH Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita
 Mrs Litia Petelo
 Ms Polutu 'A.F. Fakafanua

Tonga (cont'd.)

Mrs 'Uheina Kalaniuvalu
 Ms Sela Tu'ipulotu
 Mrs Mele L. Fifita
 Mrs Toakase Panuve
 Mrs Lautala Lui Latu
 Mrs Keiti Fusimalohi
 Mr James Guttenbeil
 Mrs Moana Guttenbeil

Mrs Luseane Ofa
 Prime Minister's Office
 GPO Box 62
 NUKU'ALOFA

Mrs Fuiva Kavaliku
 Co-ordinator
 Langa'fonua

Tuvalu

Ms Saaga Malua
 President
 National Council of Women

Ms Saini Kautu

Vanuatu

Mrs Roselyn Tor
 Department of Culture, Religion, Women's Affairs
 & Archives
 PMB 091
 PORT VILA

Ms Kathy Solomon
 Executive Director
 National Council of Women
 P.O. Box 975
 PORT VILA

Wallis & Futuna

Mrs Pipiena Tahimili

Mrs Malia Seleone
 Mme Falelavaki
 Malekalita Sione
 Siene Manuofiu
 Mme Fanene
 Ive Tuakoifenua

RESOURCE PERSONS/EXPERTS-CONSEILS

Chargée de mission représentant la CPS à Wallis & Futuna	Mme Bernadette Papilio Assemblée territoriale Wallis & Futuna
Fairbairn-Dunlop Associates	Dr Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop APIA, Western Samoa
Korea Institute for Social Information and Research	Dr Pak Po-Hi Director KOREA
Maori Women's Development Fund	Dame Georgina Kirby DBE MWDF Director AUCKLAND 1032, New Zealand
Ministry of Women's Affairs/NZ	Ms Karen Southern Senior Policy Analyst Te 'Ohu Whakatapu WELLINGTON, New Zealand
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Dr Salesi Katoanga Officer-In-Charge UNFPA/Country Support Team SUVA, Fiji

OBSERVERS/OBSERVATEURS

	Ms Barbara Cummings DARWIN, Australia
	Ms Emele Duituturaga
	Dr Jacinta Moreau President Women's Federation for World Peace NOUMEA, New Caledonia
Bah'arii Association	Mme Monique Sablan Mme Christine Palene Mme Truba Wayenece
Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)	Mrs Suzi Hewlett Programme Officer Commonwealth Secretariat HONIARA, Solomon Islands
ESCAP	Ms Thelma Kaye PORT VILA, Vanuatu
Forum Secretariat	Ms Gayle Nelson Gender Issues Adviser Development & Economic Policy Division SUVA, Fiji

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre	Shamima Ali SUVA, Fiji
ODA	Ms P. Jmrana Jalal RRRT British Aid Private Mail Bag SUVA, Fiji
Pacific Conference of Churches	Rev. Valamotu Palau Secretary for Youth SUVA, Fiji
	Mrs Susana Evening Member of the Advisory Committee
Pacific Regional Young Women's Christian Association	Ms Amelia Rokotuivuna SUVA, Fiji
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Ms Satui Bentin SPREP Librarian APIA, Western Samoa
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Dr Jacqui Badcodk Director SUVA, Fiji
	Dr Jaantam
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Ms Linda Petersen Assistant Resident Representative (Programme) and Officer responsible for Gender and Development SUVA, Fiji
UNIFEM	Mrs Laufitu M. Taylor Unifem Pacific Regional Office SUVA, Fiji
	Tauga Vulaono-Nacanitaba UNIFEM Pacific Regional Office SUVA, Fiji
Vanuatu Women's Centre	Mrs Merylyn R. Tahu Co-ordinator P.O. Box 1358 PORT VILA, Vanuatu

**SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION SECRETARIAT/
 SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL DE LA COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD
 Commission du Pacifique Sud, B.P. D5, 98848 Nouméa Cédex, Nouvelle-Calédonie
 Téléphone : (687) 26 20 00, Télécopieur : (687) 26 38 18,
 Courrier électronique : spc@spc.org.nc**

Ms Lourdes Pangelinan	Deputy Director-General/Directeur général adjoint
Dr Jimmie Rodgers	Deputy Director-General/Directeur général adjoint
Ms Bernadette Pereira-Xulue	Women's Development Adviser/Spécialiste à la condition féminine
Mrs Rolande Trolue	Women's Development Officer/Spécialiste à la condition féminine
Ms Debbie Singh	Women's Information Officer/Chargée de l'information
M. Yves Corbel	Cultural Affairs Adviser/Chargé des affaires culturelles
Dr Clement Malau	Director Health/Directeur du département Santé
Mr Graeme Brown	Statistician/Statisticien
Mr Reg Sanday	Acting Chief Economist/Chef économiste p.i.
Dr Yvan Souares	Epidemiologist/Épidémiologiste
Mrs Vilimaina Rakaseta	Population Adviser/Conseiller pour la démographie
Ms Patricia Tuara	Women's Fisheries Development Officer/Chargée du projet Promotion du rôle des femmes dans le secteur des pêches
Ms Galumalemana Nuufou Petaia	Principal Community Education & Training Centre, Suva/Directeur, Centre d'éducation et de formation communautaires
Mme Maéva Michel	Conference & Travel Officer/Chargée des conférences & voyages
Jean-Marie Vacchiani	Translator/Traducteur
Roy Benyon	Chief Interpreter/Chief interprète
Marie-Odile Bayle	Interpreter/Interprète
Gérard de Haro	Interpreter/Interprète
Elisabeth Auger-Benamar	Interpreter/Interprète
Anne Dubois/ Caroline Besnier	Secretariat Translation & Interpretation Services/ Secrétaires des services de la traduction et de l'interprétation
Yvana Routier	Meeting secretary/Secrétaire de la conférence
Evelyne Kaspan	Typist for the English report/Dactylographe rapport anglais
Mr Jim Thompson Ms Debbie Singh	Rapporteurs of the Conference
Dominique Boudierlique Phill Hardstaff	Computer Specialist/Spécialiste en informatique Maintenance Technician/Électrotechnicien