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MEETING REPORT

EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC WOMEN

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 10-14 September, 2001)



**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
NOUMEA (NEW CALEDONIA)**

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EIGHTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC WOMEN
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REPORT

Published with financial assistance from
the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and the ROC/Taiwan

Noumea, New Caledonia
2002

(ii)

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Original text: English

**The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent
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South Pacific Commission Cataloguing-in-publication data

Regional Conference of Pacific Women (8th: 2001: Noumea, New Caledonia)
Report.

1. Women – Oceania – Congresses
2. Women in community development – Oceania – Congresses

I. South Pacific Commission

II. Title

AACR2

ISBN 982-203-916-6

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Published with financial assistance from Governments of Australia and New Zealand and the ROC/Taiwan

Prepared for publication at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Headquarters
Printed at SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia, 2002

(iii)

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I. AGENDA

Sunday, 9th September

10:00 am CHURCH SERVICE
4:30 pm REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Monday, 10th September

8.30 am Opening Ceremony
Keynote Address: *"Small steps, big changes: Pacific families beyond 2001"*
•Election of Officers
•Official Conference Photograph

Morning Tea

10.30 am – 12.30 pm Progress Report on Implementation of Recommendations of 7th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women
(Working Paper 2 - To be presented by the Secretariat)
Discussion

12.30 pm *Lunch*

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm Countries' Reports and Lessons Learnt in the Implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA), and CEDAW Convention Commitments
(Presented by member countries)
Discussion

3.00 pm *Afternoon tea*

3.30 pm – 5.00 pm Countries' Reports (continued)
Discussion
Round-Up of Day's Discussions

Tuesday 11th September

8.30 am Countries' Reports (continued)
Discussion

10.00 am *Morning Tea*

10.30 am – 12.30 pm Report on Review of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau
(Working Paper 3 - To be presented by Consultant)
Discussion

12.30 pm *Lunch*

1.30 pm – 2.30 pm Continue Discussion of Report on Review of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau
2.30pm – 3.30 pm Work Plan and Directions for the PWRB
(Working Paper 4- To be presented by the Secretariat)
Discussion

3.30 pm *Afternoon tea*

3.45 pm – 5.00 pm SPC Programmes
(Lifestyle/CETC/Suva-based programme/Fisheries)
Discussion
Round-Up of Day's Discussions

Wednesday 12th September

- 8.30 am – 9.30 am SPC Programmes (continued)
(Renewable Energy/Cultural Affairs/HIV/AIDS/STD)
(To be presented by the Secretariat)
- Discussion
- 9.30 am – 10.45 am Panel Discussion 1 : *“The Pacific Voice – The role of Government and NGOs”*
- Discussion
- 10.45 am *Morning Tea*
- 11.00 am – 12.30 pm Presentation by Development Partners
- 12.30 pm *Lunch*
- 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm Presentation by Development Partners (continued)
Discussion
- 3.30 pm *Afternoon tea*
- 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm Discussion
Round-Up of Day’s Discussions

Thursday 13th September

- 8.30 am – 10.30 am *“Vision for Education”*
“Gender, Science and Technology”
Discussion
- 10.30 am *Morning Tea*
- 11.00 am – 12.30 pm Panel Discussion 2: *“Community Education and Development”*
Discussion
- 12.30 pm *Lunch*
- 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm Panel Discussion 3- *“Gender and the education curricula”*
- 3.30 pm *Afternoon tea*
- 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm Discussion
Round-Up of Day’s Discussions

Friday 14th September

- 8.30 am – 10.45 am Research Work
The Pacific Multi-site Study of the Effects of Violence Against Women on Family Health and Safety.
- Work On Violence Against Women In The Pacific
- Discussion

Media Presentation and CEDAW Q & A
Show of selected videos and questions and answers on CEDAW

10.45 am

Morning Tea

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Youth Presentation : “Small steps, big changes : Pacific families beyond 2001”

Discussion

12.30 pm

Lunch

2.30 pm

Final Plenary and Adoption of the Outcome of the 8th Triennial Conference

3.15 pm

Afternoon Tea

II. INTRODUCTION

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) 8th Regional Conference of Pacific Women, also known as the 8th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, was hosted at SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 10-14 September, 2001.

The conference brought together government and civil society representatives of the SPC's 22 members from the Pacific island countries and territories, along with representatives from donor agencies, regional partners and invited presenters.

Fiji's Adi Koila Nailatikau representing her mother Adi Lady Lalabalavu, delivered the meetings keynote address.

The conference heard country progress reports on implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action, and progress on recommendations from the 7th conference held in Noumea, in 1997. The recommendations of the 7th Conference of Pacific Women in 1997 also highlighted an approach aimed at taking into account both men and women's roles in development. In order to meet these challenges, the PWRB has worked with Pacific Island countries and territories to assist with the implementation of programmes at the national, regional and international levels.

The 8th Conference of Pacific Women provided an opportunity to assess the progress made on the Pacific Platform for Action. Delegates shared problems encountered in implementing this Platform, positive experiences in developing the countries of our region and policies to be carried out over the next three years in order to further improve the status of Pacific women and, through them, their families' well-being and enrichment.

Recommendations from a major review of the Bureau were reported, along with a workplan and directions for the Bureau aligned to the review. Key recommendations and outcomes of the review, including a name change to the Pacific Women's Bureau, were endorsed with amendments.

SPC programmes presented information papers, with a special focus on issues from the HIV/AIDS section and the Pacific Youth Bureau, which led a presentation at the meeting highlighting the need for involving young women leaders at PWB conferences.

CROP agencies and development partners presented papers to the conference, which also discussed research papers on Education, Women's Studies, and work on violence against women in the Pacific.

On the final day, Friday 14th September, the conference closed with the launch of the Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women, (PACFAW), a regional NGO covering Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Fiji offered to host the 9th Pacific Conference for women in 2004, and Samoa extended a secondary invitation to host.

Implementing Pacific Platform for Action priorities, identifying strategies in this area, providing information on women's rights as part of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and implementing the Convention remain the PWRB's main concerns.

A compendium of all presentations to the 8th conference is being published as a separate annex to the meeting report.

III. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Opening of the meeting

1. Papua New Guinea delivered the opening prayer.
2. The Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, welcomed delegates to the 8th conference, which was the first major gathering of Pacific women in the new Millennium.
3. Special acknowledgements were made for the financial assistance of donor sponsors Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan/ROC for the conference; Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand for their continued support of the SPC women's programme; participants, observers and organisers.
4. The Guest Speaker, Adi Lady Lalabalavu, was represented by Adi Koila Nailatikau, who delivered the keynote address on the theme 'Small steps, big changes: Pacific families beyond 2001'.
5. The Director General, on behalf of the conference, thanked the Guest of Honour for the keynote address delivered on behalf of Adi Lady Lala Mara.

Elections

6. The conference appointed the Representative of the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands to be Chairperson. The conference also appointed the Representative of New Caledonia as Vice-Chairperson.

Drafting Committee

7. The Drafting Committee included Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Wallis and Futuna. The committee would meet each morning prior to the conference proper.
8. The conference adopted the agenda and working hours. The Chairperson said the conference outcomes would include a Summary of Decisions to be incorporated into the PWRB work programme and to be reported to the CRGA for further consideration. The summary format would cover papers and interventions based on the agenda with the interventions to be identified by country or organisation rather than by individuals.

Adoption of agenda

9. The conference adopted the agenda of its eighth meeting. The agenda is attached to this report.

Progress report on implementation of recommendations of 7th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women

10. The Women's Development Advisor presented Working Paper 2 on Action taken by the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau on the recommendations of the 7th Regional Conference held in June 1997.
11. The report noted regrouping of the PPA's 13 critical areas in five core areas. The WDA noted progress in issues highlighted in a matrix annexed to the Working Paper.
12. The conference:
 - Congratulated the newly elected chair of the conference and office-bearers, and welcomed the new Women's Development Advisor and staff.

- Tonga noted in discussion of the implementations that while the follow up activities of the PWRB have been dictated by available resources, the Bureau should take a more pro-active role, rather than wait for requests from countries.
- Samoa expressed its disappointment in some areas of implementation of the recommendations, but recognised this may have been due to the changeover in positions within the PWRB and hoped that the bureau's capacity would be strengthened with regards to its coordinating role for the region.

13. Samoa raised the issue of regional consultancies, and asked to what extent consultants were being recognised by the donor agencies and the levels of remuneration for this. The PWRB clarified that donor agencies do consider the use of local consultants as a priority focus for selection, based on merit. On remuneration, the Bureau encourages that there be no distinction between pay rates for local and expatriate consultants. Samoa noted the reality is that local consultants are not paid on parity with outside consultants and recommended the donor agencies to review their remuneration packages for national consultants to prevent discriminatory practices.

14. In supporting Samoa's recommendation, Wallis and Futuna recommended that language be taken into consideration, particularly in regard to Francophone and/or bilingual women consultants. Wallis and Futuna also recommended that territories be integrated or taken into account in regional consultancies.

15. Fiji noted the need for the Bureau to report and address the 13 critical areas of concerns in the PPA through integration within SPC's work programme as was agreed to in earlier conferences. The PWRB report reflects the absence of PPA integration within SPC.

16. Kiribati recommended that training in data analysis on women's issues be addressed regionally.

17. New Zealand commented on the keynote address being reflective of the period of change and uncertainty facing the Bureau's work programme since the 7th conference. Progress on CEDAW initiatives was noted. Speaking to recommendation 10 of the working paper, New Zealand suggested that the Bureau work to make direct links with New Zealand women's mechanisms, and to strengthen relationships with Pacific Island and Maori women.

18. It was noted by French Polynesia that when staff change at the Bureau or in women's national offices, there is a loss of institutional knowledge, and recommended that the subregional meetings continue between regional conferences, and that Francophone conferences continue as a valuable way of enriching networks between Francophone women. In response, the WDA noted that the workplan discussions would cover these issues.

19. PNG spoke to the need for assistance to implementation of CEDAW, and recommended that the Bureau identify contacts with parent organisations who can be identified to assist with CEDAW report writing and implementation. The WDA reminded the meeting of the Nadi Accord signed in 1998 which reaffirms a regional commitment to ratification and implementation of CEDAW. At that meeting, the SPC was asked to coordinate CEDAW regionally and keep momentum going. That coordination role has been resurrected since February 2001.

20. Solomon Islands spoke to the issue of consultants and is about to form a graduate women's association, and recommended that women graduates be given training in consultancies and how to manage consultancy work.

21. Tuvalu noted the lack of information flow within its networks and asked that the Bureau assist in addressing this.

22. Vanuatu noted the work on gender equity measures in the implementation report and stressed the importance of progress in this area.

23. Palau spoke to the issue of economic empowerment and the study for gender and entrepreneurship for specified countries, asking how the countries were selected. The WDA clarified that the selection of

countries was issues-based on a broad criteria and noted that this had begun as a pilot project. The Bureau remains committed subject to funding availability to extending this study to the rest of the Pacific.

24. New Caledonia noted that SPC should work to improve links and contacts with women from other countries.

25. The Marshall Islands registered concern with follow up to the violence against women study raised in the sub-regional Kiribati meeting and requested follow up on plans to conduct the second phase in RMI, and requested assistance for a proposed review of the National Womens Policy. The WDA clarified that progress for the study would be discussed during a VAW presentation later in the meeting.

26. Tokelau noted issues with communications breakdowns on small atolls and requested the bureau to visit and assess the extent of women's issues there, as well as the need for funding support for a national centre for women. The assistance of the New Zealand government was noted, both in the Tokelau statement, and in the positive reply from the PWRB.

Country progress reports on implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action

27. The Chairperson introduced the session on Progress Reports on Implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action.

28. American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia (two reports were presented – a joint report for the Northern province and Loyalty Islands province and one report for the Southern province) reported on progress to implement the Pacific Platform for Action.

29. Following a request from New Caledonia, the conference then observed a moment of silence for a woman killed the previous day in a case of domestic violence in New Caledonia.

30. The Secretariat summarised key issues raised by members:

- PWRB needed to strengthen its coordination role and its capacity to deliver on its mandate.
- Fair and equal treatment was sought in the hiring and remuneration of national consultants and experts.
- Importance of stronger networks and better communication between the Bureau and development partners, national and regional contacts, and governments and NGOs.
- Better co-ordination was needed for CEDAW implementation and follow-up.
- Need for sex disaggregated data
- Need to address related issues such as food security, domestic violence and lobbying for ratification of international agreements such as Kyoto Protocol on climate change.
- Mainstream and report on PPA and Beijing/CEDAW implementation
- Need to address media stereotyping of women and trafficking of migrant women
- Need to address Donor-driven Projects and Programmes
- Support for Sub Regional Caucuses
- The involvement of women in national, regional and international peace initiatives

- PWRB to promote through SPC Agricultural programmes cultivation and good husbandry practices for handcraft raw materials
 - PWRB to promote and be involved in the promotion of indigenous women's rights, for example, intellectual property rights.
31. Nauru, Niue, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa reported on the progress of implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action.
32. Representatives of New Zealand Non-Government Organisations reported on the status of Pacific migrant women in New Zealand and on post-Beijing activities.
33. Before presenting its progress report, Tonga requested assistance from donors and SPC through the PWRB in the following initiatives:
- Available funding to confirm more than two places for Tonga nominations to CETC in Fiji;
 - Training assistance on media and statistics for Tongan women;
 - Revival of the SPC women's exchange inter-country visits to allow for exchanges between Tonga, Wallis and Futuna and Samoa;
 - Assistance in sourcing funds to implement CEDAW which Tonga has not yet ratified;
 - Continued support of sub-regional caucuses and triennial Pacific women's conferences.
34. Tonga made specific mention of its new gender and development policy and that it was seeking funding assistance for two officers (one government and one NGO) to coordinate implementation of the policy. Australia, who had funded seed money for a revolving fund was asked for a further US\$5,000 to continue the scheme.
35. In its country presentation, Samoa requested financial assistance from donors to develop a National Plan of Action to implement the National Policy for Women, once the current draft is finalised and endorsed by cabinet.

SPC Programmes

36. SPC Programmes made presentations on Lifestyle Health, Marine Resources Division and of Suva-based programmes of Agriculture, Forestry and Community Education Training Centre.
37. The Marine Resources Division presenter urged delegates to lobby for more inclusion of women's perspectives and issues in fisheries industries at community and national level.
38. On Wednesday 12th September, the day's proceedings opened with a statement from the chair on the acts of terrorism which had just occurred in the USA. A prayer was led by the Cook Islands and was followed by appreciation from the representative of the Government of the United States of America.
39. SPC presented discussions on Renewable Energy Programmes (REP), Cultural Affairs, and HIV/AIDS and STD's.

Report on the Review of the PWRB

40. The report on the review of the PWRB was introduced by SPC and details presented by the Review team leader Dr Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop.
41. SPC noted that there was a need for this conference to use the review report as a general framework to launch a renewed impetus towards achieving the goals of the PPA in the region.

42. The review team said it would be important for the national bureaux to consider the management recommendations in the report, in terms of how these applied to their own networks with the Bureau.

43. The review team reminded the conference that:

- Historical conditions which framed the inception of the Bureau have changed
- The PPA is not written in stone, and there are emerging areas which need to be considered.
- There should be standard expectations of technical assistance which the Bureau can provide, including advice on gender, CEDAW, communications and information, and emerging areas.

44. The conference thanked the Secretariat and the Consultants for the report.

45. The Secretariat clarified that the changes and additional input to the review's recommendations would become recommendations of the conference.

Recommendation 1: The Bureau's mission

46. Endorsed by the conference.

47. Samoa sought clarification on the Bureau's vision statement within which to couch the mission of the Bureau. The review team clarified that the PPA and CEDAW provided the vision, and noted that it had not specifically done this, but had suggested in its review that the SPC work through a visioning exercise for the Bureau.

48. Samoa recommended that the Bureau develop a vision.

Recommendation 2: The Bureau's objectives

49. Objectives 1 and 3 were accepted by the conference.

50. Objective 2 was accepted with an addition from Tonga, which read "enhancing regional and international co-operation".

51. In terms of the second bullet point of enhancing regional co-operation, the conference registered disappointment with the lack of co-ordination of regional women at the international level by the Bureau, as seen in the Beijing +5 UNGASS for women in June 2001. Samoa registered its concern that this co-ordinating role was not a part of the review report or the Bureau's proposed work programme. In response, the Secretariat clarified that the review report had pointed out that the SPC and Forum Secretariat arrive at a clear position of their regional coordinating role to international meetings.

52. In response to a question from the Secretariat on what the conference felt that co-ordinating role should be, Samoa noted a definition should involve the co-ordination of the region in terms of CEDAW, BPA, and other global plans of action requiring a regional response, and Pacific women's participation at the international level. If funding is an important role, then this was appreciated, but the key requirement in terms of co-ordination was the framing of a Pacific response to international meetings as had been done in the past.

53. Forum Secretariat noted that the observer seat at the UN is available for regional agencies to take up a Pacific presence, as used by the Secretariat during the recent HIV UNGASS. Tonga reiterated that the co-ordinating role had been established when the Bureau co-ordinated Pacific women's preparation and participation at the 4th World Conference of Women in Beijing in 1995 through regional meetings and caucuses, and had proven its benefits in mobilising the Pacific to Beijing, but had lapsed in the interim to the Beijing plus 5 meeting last year.

Recommendation 3: The Bureau's Work Programme

54. In response to a query from French Polynesia regarding the importance of partnerships for development, where the Secretariat was asked to clarify how much it incorporates family-based partnerships in its work, the review team noted that the basis to the PPA and strategies for its advancement is the family. A gender and development approach takes into account both male and female roles, but raises questions on single-parent families and the changing cultural and social contexts of the family.

55. The Solomon Islands supported keeping CEDAW as one of the themes and separate from women's and indigenous rights because it ensures the commitment to women's rights by countries who have not ratified CEDAW.

56. An NGO from Aotearoa/New Zealand posed a question on whether the indigenous and Pacific migrant women of Aotearoa/New Zealand could be involved in triennial and other meetings convened by the Bureau. The Secretariat clarified that it would be useful for the bureau to receive definitions of how technical assistance can support on matters of ideology such as indigenous rights. Fiji clarified that the Secretariat could increase its support in terms of the advancement of indigenous women's rights and posed the example of a recent SPC Intellectual Property Rights conference. IPR is of concern to women as knowledge holders.

57. Following interventions from Fiji, the conference agreed to return to country reports on the PPA using the 13 critical areas of concern.

58. The conference agreed that PWRB for the purpose of planning its work programme will maintain the five themes which had resulted from the regrouping exercise undertaken at the 7th triennial.

59. In addition, it was recommended by Fiji that CEDAW remain as a separate theme to stress its importance on the work programme of the Bureau.

60. New Zealand's National Council of Women recommended that the PWRB include in its Work Programme an analysis of the cross linkages between the Beijing Platform for Action and the Pacific Platform for Action.

Recommendation 4: The Bureau's activities

61. With reference to bullet point three, the Solomon Islands requested technical assistance on CEDAW progress.

Recommendation 5: Ministerial meetings

62. The recommendation was endorsed by the conference.

63. Vanuatu noted the need for endorsement of this recommendation amongst a wider cross section of decision-makers at national level.

The conference chair appointed Samoa to select a taskforce to revisit discussions regarding recommendations 6, 7 and 8 and report back to the meeting. Samoa invited nominations of two members per sub-region, being one NGO and government official for each.

Recommendation 9: Young women

64. Endorsed with the following changes: that the Bureau staff work with the Youth Resource Bureau and the national women's focal points to identify young women leaders.

65. The Solomon Islands asked that PWRB consider assistance to promote and strengthen capacity of young women leaders in the region.

Recommendation 9: Name of the WDA

66. The conference endorsed the recommendation.

67. Wallis and Futuna sought clarification on how changing the name of the WDA would affect professional postings. In clarification the Secretariat noted that due to existing structures within the organisation, it was not likely that this change could be implemented. However it welcomed comment on the recommendation.

Recommendation 11: Name change for the Bureau

68. The conference endorsed the recommendation.

69. Wallis and Futuna welcomed the endorsement as this would entail easier translation of the Bureau name into French.

70. The Francophone caucus recommended that the French texts of the review report be supplied as soon as possible.

71. Australia noted that the Bureau was doing good work in communication and that a meeting in New Caledonia last week on Information and Communications Technology posed opportunities for women and ICT, and for the Bureau to continue to work in this area.

72. It was clarified by the Chair that the recommendations pertain to section A of the review findings were under discussion by the Conference. Section B, relating to management issues, would be taken up by the administration.

Workplan and directions for the PWRB

73. The Secretariat presented the work programme focus of PWRB under Working Paper 4.

74. The Secretariat noted that its proposed work programme was subject to modifications by the SPC's CRGA.

75. The conference congratulated the Advisor for the Bureau report.

76. The Cook Islands sought clarification on where profiling the women of the region in international meetings sat with the Bureau's work focus. The secretariat noted that if the task force on the recommendations would not address this issue, then it should be lodged as a country recommendation. The Cook Islands recommended that PWRB establish a core of technical experts representative of the four sub-regions both at government and NGO level, to assist governments with preparatory work to unite a Pacific voice and position at both regional and international level.

77. Kiribati recommended that the PWRB work programme mission be endorsed.

78. Fiji recommended that CEDAW be a specific programme theme in order to support the importance of CEDAW work and to assist with sourcing of funds for a three year CEDAW position within PWRB.

79. Despite concern from Samoa that the proposed reporting periods of one year were very difficult because of substantive areas that needed reporting on, the conference endorsed the annual reporting on PPA progress from countries. The PWRB develop an annual matrix logframe on the 13 areas of critical concern to facilitate the annual reporting.

80. The conference agreed that reporting be done on the 13 areas of concern as listed in the PPA, rather than the five regrouped areas as proposed by the 7th triennial. It was noted by the conference that countries had used both formats to provide their current reports, and that reporting on the five areas was extremely

difficult. UN/ESCAP noted the discussion and reiterated that the Asia Pacific region preparation to the 5th World Conference on Women will commence in 2004 and will focus on reporting on the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action.

81. New Zealand placed on record a note of appreciation to the PWRB staff and SPC executive management in their co-operation to the review team, adding to the review teams appreciation to the countries and organisations visited in the region during the review.

82. The Secretariat clarified that having the report biennially or annually would allow the Bureau to more effectively track progress and its own responses to regional concerns.

Panel Discussion 1: The Pacific Voice – The Role of Government and NGOs

83. The Facilitator (Fiji) introduced the panel and noted that the region needed to be more visible and be heard at international level. SPC country and territory members were at different levels of development and the value of partnerships between NGOs, civil society and government needed to be recognised.

84. Presentations were given by Alastair Wilkinson, as Social Advisor-designate to EPOC, (ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre), Frances Topa-Apera, the President of Cook Islands National Council of Women, Luagalau Foisagasina Eteuati-Shon, Secretary for Women's Affairs in Samoa, and Salamo Fulivai Executive Director of the new Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women.

85. In the discussion, Samoa said that government should recognise the autonomy and independence of NGOs whilst working in collaboration with Governments. Aotearoa/New Zealand NGO sought support from the conference for NGOs in Australia and New Zealand with similar needs.

86. Solomon Islands called on the Women's Bureau to give priority to capacity building so that capacities of those in government and NGOs are strengthened.

87. The HIV project called on the conference to recommend that HIV/AIDS needed to be one of the Bureau's priorities.

88. Palau requested SPC assistance for an NGO young women's group to start an HIV project within their community. Palau said HIV is becoming an epidemic in the Pacific islands and was a major concern for women, and should be a focal part of the Bureau work programme.

89. Kiribati requested SPC support to implement future undertakings of its national strategic plan for HIV/AIDS.

90. Presentations were made by SPC development partners of Australia, New Zealand, United States, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Taiwan/ROC, United Nations Development Programme, UNIFEM, Forum Secretariat, University of the South Pacific and the Regional Rights Resource Team.

91. The Chair thanked the development partners for their continuing support for women's issues in the Pacific Island region.

92. Australia said it would convey concerns regarding remuneration for Pacific Island consultants raised at the conference to its contracts division in AusAID, Canberra.

93. The Secretariat thanked development partners for their presentations.

94. Samoa called on ESCAP to increase the participation from Pacific countries at ESCAP meetings and requested the Forum Secretariat to advise focal points of Forum-related meetings dealing with gender and development.

95. Tonga called on development partners to focus on the sustainability aspect of projects and requested assistance from development partners with the implementation of Tonga's Gender and Development policy.
96. Fiji recommended that:
- The Forum Secretariat's Gender Adviser follow through on CEDAW commitments made by the 1999 Forum Leaders meeting and also remind Leaders of their commitments.
 - The conference through its representatives in the USP and SPC governing councils seek to establish a Gender and Women's Studies programme at USP, and that women's studies also be pursued in other training institutions.
97. The Cook Islands supported both recommendations.
98. Solomon Islands made two specific requests: that donors consider the education needs of the community, especially those of university students unable to return to their studies due to lack of government funding, and that the Forum Secretariat Gender Adviser provide information on matters of concern to women as the information flow from official channels such as Foreign Affairs was very limited.
99. Tonga Catholic Women's League made a strong call seeking continued assistance from donors for its initiatives.
100. New Zealand said many demands were placed on the Bureau and the responsibility lay with member countries to remind Leaders of their commitments at regional and international meetings. The Bureau needed support to effectively meet their coordination needs. Aid programmes resulted from discussions at national level and it was important for participants to lobby and work with the relevant ministries to promote the interests of women.

Conference presentations: Gender in Education

101. Presentations were made by Dr Ana Taufe'ulungaki on Gender and Education in the Pacific and by Dr Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop on the AP Gender, Science and Technology (APGEST/UNESCO/USP) project.
102. PNG requested donor assistance for countries that were disadvantaged in areas such as the need for better education opportunity for girls at all levels; and that donors also support the Bureau's work in this area.

Panel Discussion 2: Community Education and Development

103. Facilitated by Dr Peggy Fairbairn Dunlop with panelists CETC Principal Galumalemana Nuufou Petaia; Lynn Lambeth, SPC Community Fisheries Officer, Coastal Fisheries Programme; and Nga Teao, Director of the Cook Islands Women's division.
104. CETC sought donor support to expand its hostel to cater for more students.
105. The facilitator noted the importance of sustainability of CETC programmes, opportunities for graduates and courses.
106. Solomon Islands sought clarification on CETC student space allocation and said the maximum was two places per country, although this allocation could increase depending on the number of countries taking part in the course.
107. RMI noted an earlier meeting of CETC alumni where participants recommended a refresher course for graduates and suggested CETC alumni hold a regular annual reunion. CETC noted the issue of a CETC reunion for consideration.

109. RMI and Samoa did not support the inclusion of men in CETC courses as the inclusion of male students could pose certain problems.

109. PNG expressed concern that a women in fisheries programme evaluation was prepared yet no further communication was received on this matter. SPC clarified that the evaluation was not done due to staff changes. Tuvalu extended its appreciation to the community fisheries section of SPC for conducting a fish processing workshop in Tuvalu in 2000. It informed the conference that it has documented a project for NZODA for a follow-up workshop in this area to extend the knowledge of fish processing to women in the outer islands.

110. Wallis and Futuna requested that CETC allow for a second year of training in a specific area such as fisheries and tourism as the first year focused on basic training. CETC said the issue regarding duration of courses had financial implications and was noted for consideration. CETC graduates could also be directed to other institutions and the need for a cross-credit system would be valuable.

111. Wallis and Futuna requested the SPC community fisheries officer visit Wallis and Futuna to conduct national training for the benefit of an increased number of women. SPC confirmed the issue would be conveyed to Management.

112. French Polynesia said it faced a language barrier at CETC as well as organisational issues in the way the health and social systems were structured. Some students sent to Fiji in community training could not find appropriate working models upon their return. CETC said this was a difficult issue that needed future consideration. English classes for both francophone and Pacific islanders who speak English as a second language were run to try and overcome the language barrier.

Panel Discussion 3 – Gender and Education Curricula

113. The Facilitator Dr Ana Taufē'ulungaki of USP Fiji introduced the panel discussion on Gender and the Education Curricula. Presentations were made by Margaret Leniston, Forum Secretariat Gender Issues Adviser; Dr Melani Anae, University of Auckland, New Zealand and Dr Esther Williams, USP.

114. PNG confirmed that the University of PNG was in its second year of gender studies. USP confirmed the importance of a gender study programme, which it does not currently have.

115. CNMI noted the panel reference to celebrating the differences between men and women and suggested that the Bureau consider a celebration of differences as a theme at future conferences.

116. Fiji :

- recommended that the area of science and technology be strengthened in the review of the PPA and that traditional science and technology be part of this.
- requested UNIFEM and USP carry out a multi-site study on the factors that have resulted in the small number of women involved in science and technology. The study is to incorporate issues of gender, family and culture and other issues highlighted in the presentation and panel discussions and to recommend strategies that would increase women's participation in science and technology.

117. Samoa recommended that SPC consider offering refresher courses for CETC graduates. CETC noted this issue for consideration.

Presentation - The Pacific Multi-site study of the Effects of Violence Against Women on Family Health and Safety

118. The presentations by the SPC's demographer Dr Chris McMurray and senior Deputy Director General of SPC, Dr Jimmie Rogers on the Samoa Study and Adele Khan from the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre on work on Violence Against Women in the Pacific are part of the compendium to this report.

119. SPC Demography/Population Programme was able to assist with advice on survey design; sampling; data management; data analysis and report writing. SPC would introduce a Geographical Information System in 2002 which would serve as an information database.
120. Samoa noted the important value of the study, adding it had a strong Samoan input. A steering committee from government and NGOs reviewed the questionnaire and modified it to suit national considerations. The committee also reviewed the preliminary report and involved the two Samoan experts in the training, collection of data and discussion.
121. Palau asked for WHO assistance in survey work. Palau asked if a survey was being considered to address children and the need for skills in controlling their anger. [Palau asked whose standards would be used to measure the discipline used for disobedience.]
122. SPC said work had been done on children although this was up to countries to prioritise, and that feedback to WHO might not be necessary. The real issue was the problem at national level and to carry out work that suited the country rather than international organisations. The surveys would identify the problems and issues raised, and provide a guide for follow-up.
123. Solomon Islands sought training in the area of research, where assistance provided could focus on preparation of surveys aimed at a better focus to problems and speeding the implementation of activities.
124. Tonga requested SPC to extend the Pacific Multisite Study on Family Health and Safety to Tonga as it is in line with government's commitment to CRC and CEDAW awareness in the GAD policy. Government and NGOs have conducted surveys on domestic violence and government agencies are conducting surveys on children's wellbeing and women's work. This study will facilitate a coordinated approach on addressing the issue of violence and the collection of data in-country and regionally.
125. USP said research models were often taken from the West and the presentation had commented on some of the shortcomings. These could be modified to better suit Pacific conditions. SPC could help to develop an alternative model for Pacific research.
126. Niue asked how honest people were in their answers given that the issues were sensitive. In small communities it could be difficult to get honest answers. SPC said it appeared people were open and honest due to well-trained Samoan interviewers.
127. An emerging issue in RMI was prostitution and RMI requested the study be expanded to include this issue.
128. New Caledonia asked SPC for a training workshop in conducting of research and data management to assist with NGO's and other organisations working in this area.
129. French Polynesia requested SPC to set up core studies that could be adapted to the different island states through which local experts could be trained. Such studies were essential as this problem existed through the region and leads to other problems such as prostitution. Effeminate men who identified more with women made up the major part of prostitution. SPC could also look at communication issues between men and women. French Polynesia also requested SPC broaden the study and help countries to run these surveys on family violence and organise a special conference on this theme after the studies.
130. Fiji said there were NGO surveys in this area and recommended that Samoa, Pacific experts and SPC review a methodology to assist with work in this area before the next study.
131. Wallis and Futuna sought assistance in developing an appropriate format for a survey being prepared for its people, and for finalising the core set of questions.
132. Tonga requested assistance from FWCC for in-country training data collection and counselling. FWCC welcomed the request from Tonga and offered similar assistance to others.

133. PNG requested SPC to ask governments to show a greater commitment to initiatives aimed at addressing violence against women.
134. Vanuatu requested SPC to provide relevant research data to assist Vanuatu in developing strategies.
135. In response to a query from Tuvalu about how FWCC assistance was secured, FWCC said airfares were required and the training would be provided.
136. An NGO representative from Aotearoa/NZ recommended that emerging concerns should be reviewed and reported on for the whole Pacific region for Beijing +10.

Presentation – A Pacific Youth Resource Bureau Perspective

137. The SPC Youth Development Adviser made a presentation on Youth.
138. The Chair recommended that the national women's focal points be the focal points for the youth development programme.
139. PNG had identified some of the imbalances faced by youth and there was a need to strike a balance on this issue, in line with its plan to review national women's policies. PNG had a problem with the Chair's recommendation on focal points as PNG had a separate structure for youth through its national commission.
140. CNMI was actively involved with youth development activities and welcomed further information from the SPC youth programme for the benefit of other stakeholders in CNMI.
141. Samoa said youth development began in the home and stressed it was important for the Bureau to develop Pacific-oriented indicators to measure the progress of the PPA. SPC said there was room to develop appropriate strategies to assist youth development.
142. Samoa recommended that the PWRB determine an appropriate timeframe for the implementation of the PPA during the development of its work programme; and that the PWRB work on refining and strengthening the indicators for measuring the progress of PPA implementation.
143. Solomon Islands NGO said the definition of youth by SPC was 15-24 and asked what policies there were for training of young women between 25-35 years. SPC said their definition for youth was for those members without a national definition for youth in their national planning policies. It was explained that the definitions for ages for youth were up to the countries.

The Chair called for a few minutes of silence to pay tribute to the victims of the airborne terrorist attacks in the US.

144. Fiji recommended that the conference allow for the representative of young women from every country to be part of the delegations to the conference, in addition to government and NGO representatives.
145. SPC said the Youth Ministerial meetings had requested youth be included in the national delegations. SPC noted that funding was limited and some support staff at this conference were here at their own expense.
146. Tonga NGO said that the interests of young victims of abuse were a concern and asked if there was a programme to assist in addressing these issues. SPC said the Challenge Pasifika programme challenged member countries to address emerging issues facing youth and it would be useful to set up a national youth policy to focus these initiatives.
147. French Polynesia acknowledged the value of the youth programmes and meetings as a means of assisting youth to deal with the challenges they faced, reminding the conference that when the first women's

conference was held in Tahiti, the average age of delegates was under 30 and the Chair was 28. The Bureau was created by young women who were a new generation and sent a strong message.

Outcomes of the review

148. In lieu of the media presentation and CEDAW session, the conference was requested by the Secretariat to consider two documents for appending to the conference report, being:

i) The outcomes of the recommendations review group

The conference endorsed recommendations three, six and eight as reworded by the review group led by Samoa, and deleted recommendation seven from the review group.

149. The new recommendations endorsed by conference are as follows:

Recommendation three:

That the Bureau keep the 13 critical areas of concern for reporting on the implementation of the PPA, rather than the five regrouped themes proposed by the 7th triennial conference.

Recommendation six:

That the Bureau work towards strengthening the technical elements for the triennial meetings, and develop working methods designed to encourage participation and informed debate, ensuring that equal focus is accorded to the PWRB work programmes, countries good practices, lessons learnt, and emerging issues.

Recommendation seven related to the establishment of an advisory group. Discussion which led to its deletion noted that there are already informal advisory networks available through the Bureau, and formally through CRGA.

The conference agreed that the name of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau should become the Pacific Women's Bureau.

ii) The Conference agreed to attach the Summary of Decisions to the report of the conference.

Next conference

150. In terms of the next Pacific Women's Conference, Fiji offered in principle to host the next meeting in 2004. Samoa offered in principle to be the alternate venue.

151. The Chair thanked participants to the Pacific Women's Conference for their valuable contributions and expressed sincere gratitude to the donors, SPC the Bureau and the drafting committee for their hard work and continuing support.

152. Wallis and Futuna on behalf of the participants thanked the Chair for her leadership, wisdom and guidance during the conference.

153. The conference adopted the report of the conference.

154. The SPC Director General thanked participants, presenters, donors and staff for their participation and support. The conference was an excellent opportunity to shape the future direction of the women's bureau and its work on behalf of women in the region.

155. Tuvalu made the closing prayer.

156. The Chair closed the meeting.

IV. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Eighth Conference for Pacific Women made the following recommendations:

Country Reports

The Conference:

- (a) called on CETC to consider expanding the number of participants in its training programmes;
- (b) called on SPC to consider revival of the inter-country exchange programme;
- (c) urged member countries to develop strategies to enhance the sustainability of programmes and other initiatives in order to reduce dependency on external funding .

Progress Report on Implementation of Recommendations of the 8th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women

The Conference:

- (a) recommended that the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau take a more pro-active role in the implementation of the outcomes of the regional women's conferences and other related initiatives;
- (b) urged donor agencies to review their remuneration packages to national consultants to prevent discriminatory practices;
- (c) recommended that training in data analysis on women's issues be addressed regionally.

Report on the Review of the PWRB

The Conference adopted the recommendations of the Report on the Review of the PWRB with amendments as follows:

Recommendation three:

That the Bureau keeps the 13 critical areas of concern for reporting on the implementation of the PPA, rather than the five regrouped themes proposed by the 7th triennial conference.

Recommendation six:

That the bureau work towards strengthening the technical elements of the triennial meetings, and develop working methods designed to encourage participation and informed debate, ensuring that equal focus is accorded to the PWRB work programmes, countries good practices, lessons learnt and emerging issues.

Recommendation eight:

That the Bureau accord time for NGOs to caucus during sub-regional meetings and triennial conferences.

Work Plan and Directions for the PWRB

The Conference:

- (a) adopted the work plan directions for the PWRB;
- (b) recommended that CEDAW be a specific programme theme and that funding be secured for a three year CEDAW position within the PWRB;

Panel Discussion 1: The Pacific Voice – The Role of Governments and NGOs

The Conference:

- (a) *[recommended that HIV/AIDS be one of the PWRB's priorities and be incorporated into the Bureau's work programme;]*

Development Partner Presentations

The Conference:

- (a) urged relevant regional organisations to improve the consultation process with stakeholders in the area of women's issues;
- (b) urged development partners and agencies to continue support for programmes and activities for women in the region;
- (c) called on the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to follow through on CEDAW commitments made by Forum Leaders in 1999;
- (d) called on the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to assist in improving the flow of information between official contacts and other stakeholders at the national and regional level.
- (e) called for the consideration of the establishment of a Gender and Women's Studies programme at USP.

Presentation – Gender and Education

The Conference:

- (a) called on development partners to maintain a very high priority on addressing education needs especially in those countries that were disadvantaged in times of internal crisis.

Panel Discussion 2: Community Education and Development

The Conference:

- (a) called on SPC to consider modifying its CETC and community fisheries programme to better cater for the changing needs of women as outlined by members.

Panel Discussion 3 – Gender and the Education Curricula

The Conference:

- (a) recommended that the Bureau consider a celebration of differences at future conferences;
- (b) requested UNIFEM and USP to carry out a study on the factors that resulted in a small number of women engaged in the science and technology sectors;
- (c) recommended that strategies be developed by members and PWRB to increase the participation of women in science and technology;
- (d) recommended that SPC consider refresher courses for CETC graduates.

Presentation - The Pacific Multi-site study of the Effects of Violence Against Women on Family Health and Safety

The Conference:

- (a) called on SPC and other development partners to provide technical and financial assistance for members to carry out research and to develop strategies to address violence against women and other important issues affecting women;
- (b) recommended that SPC establish core studies and resource materials on violence against women and organise a regional conference on the issue of violence against women;

Presentation – Work on Violence Against Women in the Pacific

The Conference:

- (a) called on governments to show a greater commitment to initiatives aimed at addressing violence against women;
- (b) commended the work of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and noted the availability of assistance from FWCC for in-country training in areas such as data collection and counselling;
- (c) recommended that the PWRB include in the integration of the Pacific Platform for Action, the Beijing Declaration and preparations for Beijing +10 a substantive analysis of cross-cutting critical concerns and for the Pacific Platform for Action to reflect these concerns.

Presentation – A Pacific Youth Resource Bureau Perspective

The Conference:

- (a) recommended that the PWRB determine an appropriate timeframe for the implementation of the PPA during the development of its work programme;
- (b) recommended that the PWRB work on refining and strengthening the indicators for measuring the progress of PPA implementation;
- (c) called on members to encourage greater participation by young women to the Pacific Women's Conferences in addition to the national and NGO representatives.

V. LIST OF PRESENTATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE

Opening address, by Ms Lourdes Pangelinan, SPC Director-General

Address by Lourdes Pangelinan to PACFAW Lauch

WORKING PAPERS/DOCUMENTS DE TRAVAIL

SPC/Women 8/WP.1	<p>« Small Steps, big changes - Pacific families beyond 2001» <i>À petits pas vers de grands changements : la famille océanienne après 2001"</i> <i>(Paper presented by Adi Lady Koila Nailatikau of Fiji Islands)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/WP.2	<p>Progress Report on Implementation of Recommendations of 7th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women <i>Suite donnée aux recommandations de la septième Conférence régionale sur la condition féminine</i> <i>(Paper presented by the Secretariat)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/WP.3	<p>Report on Review of PWRB <i>Rapport sur l'évaluation du Bureau technique des femmes du Pacifique</i> <i>(Paper presented by Ms Patti O'Neill, consultant)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/WP.4	<p>Workplan and Directions for the PWRB <i>Grandes orientations et programme de travail du Bureau technique des femmes du Pacifique</i> <i>(Paper presented by Secretariat)</i></p>

COUNTRY STATEMENTS/EXPOSES NATIONAUX

SPC/Women 8/CS.1	Country Statement – American Samoa
SPC/Women 8/CS.2	Country Statement - Cook Islands
SPC/Women 8/CS.3	Country Statement – Federated States of Micronesia (not submitted)
SPC/Women 8/CS.4	Country Statement – Fiji
SPC/Women 8/CS.5	Country Statement - French Polynesia
SPC/Women 8/CS.6	Country Statement – Guam
SPC/Women 8/CS.7	Country Statement – Kiribati
SPC/Women 8/CS.8	Country Statement – Marshall Islands
SPC/Women 8/CS.9	Country Statement – Nauru
SPC/Women 8/CS.10	Country Statement - New Caledonia
SPC/Women 8/CS.11	Country Statement – Niue
SPC/Women 8/CS.12	Country Statement – Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
SPC/Women 8/CS.13	Country Statement – Palau
SPC/Women 8/CS.14	Country Statement - Papua New Guinea

SPC/Women 8/CS.15	Country Statement – Samoa
CPS/Femmes 8/CS.16	Country Statement – Solomon Islands
SPC/Women 8/CS.17	Country Statement – Tokelau
SPC/Women 8/CS.18	Country Statement – Tonga
SPC/Women 8/CS.19	Country Statement – Tuvalu
SPC/Women 8/CS.20	Country Statement – Vanuatu
SPC/Women 8/CS.21	Country Statement - Wallis & Futuna
SPC/Women 8/CS.22	Country Statement – United States of America

INFORMATION PAPERS/DOCUMENTS D'INFORMATION

SPC/Women 8/IP.1	<p>Suva-based Programmes <i>Services relevant de Suva</i></p> <p><i>(Paper presented by Nuufou Petaia, Principal CETC, Narere, Fiji)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/IP.2	<p>Lifestyle Health Section</p> <p><i>(Paper presented by Jimaima Schultz, Lifestyle Health Adviser, SPC Noumea)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/IP.3	<p>HIV/AIDS & STDs Section</p> <p><i>(Paper presented by Andrew Peteru, Training & Information Officer, AIDS & HIV & STD Project, Community Health Programme, SPC Noumea)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/IP.4	<p>Cultural Affairs Programme</p> <p><i>(Paper presented by Ms Rhonda Griffiths, Cultural Affairs Adviser, SPC Noumea)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/IP.5	<p>SPC Marine Resources Division: Linkages with the Pacific Platform for Action and the general advancement of women <i>La Division Ressources Marines de la CPS et ses liens avec la Plateforme d'action pour le Pacifique et la promotion de la condition féminine</i></p> <p><i>(Paper presented by Lynn Lambeth, Community Fisheries Officer, SPC Marine Resources Division, Noumea)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/IP.6	<p>Renewable Energy Programme [REP]</p> <p><i>(Paper presented by Solomone Fifita, Renewable Energy Adviser, PREFACE, SPC Noumea)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/IP.7	<p>“Vision for Education”</p> <p><i>(Paper presented by Dr 'Ana Taufe'ulungaki, USP Suva)</i></p>
SPC/Women 8/IP.8	<p>“Small steps, big changes: Pacific Families beyond 2001”. A Pacific Youth Resource Bureau Perspective <i>La perspective du Bureau Technique de la Jeunesse du Pacifique</i></p> <p><i>Paper presented by Tangata Vainerere, Youth Development Adviser, SPC Noumea)</i></p>

**PAPERS PRESENTED BY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, CROP & DONOR
AGENCIES/DOCUMENTS PRESENTES PAR LES PARTENAIRES DU DEVELOPPEMENT,
AGENCES DU CORPS ET BAILLEURS DE FONDS**

AusAid, Canberra, Australia	<i>Presentation by Mrs Rosemary Cassidy, Gender, Health & Education Section</i>
New Zealand	1. <i>Presentation by Patti O'Neill, MOFAT</i> 2. <i>Presentation by Jane Prichard & Bernadette Pereira, NCW</i>
Roc/Taiwan, Suva, Fiji	<i>Presentation by Mr Liu, Deputy Representative, Trade Mission of the ROC</i>
ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand	<i>Presentation by Mrs Thelma Kay, Chief WID Section</i>
Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji	<i>Presentation by Mrs Margaret Leniston, Gender Issues Adviser</i>
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Apia, Samoa	The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Gender <i>(Prepared by Satui Bentin, Information Resource Centre Manager, SPREP Gender Focal Point)</i>
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Suva, Fiji	<i>Presentation by Sarah Whitfield, Programme Analyst, Gender/Poverty</i>
Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC), Suva, Fiji	Work on Violence Against Women in the Pacific <i>La violence à l'égard des femmes : actions entreprises en Océanie (Résumé)</i> <i>(Presented by Mrs Adele Khan)</i>
UNESCO/UNDP, Suva, Fiji	Resources and best practices and gaps in Gender, Science and Technology in the Asia-Pacific region (APGEST) <i>(Presented by Mrs Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop)</i>
University of the South Pacific (USP), Suva, Fiji	Women Studies in Higher Education in the Pacific <i>(Presented by Dr Esther Batiri Williams, University Librarian)</i>

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