

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

JOINT REGIONAL MEETING OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS
ON WOMEN'S AFFAIRS IN THE PACIFIC

(Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 25-27 March 1985)

REPORT

South Pacific Commission Cataloguing-in-Publication data

Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and
Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's
Affairs in the Pacific (1985 : Rarotonga, Cook Islands).

Report.

1. Women--Oceania--Congresses. 2. Women--Services for--
Oceania--Congresses. I. S.P.C.

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I. INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seminar of South Pacific Women held in Tahiti, French Polynesia, in 1981 endorsed the proposal that a Sub-regional End of the Decade Meeting take place under the auspices of ESCAP prior to the End of the Decade World Conference on Women to be held in Nairobi in July 1985. The Seminar further recommended that the South Pacific Commission convene a meeting of Pacific women from both government and non-governmental agencies triennially. These proposals were endorsed by the Twenty-first South Pacific Conference held later that year.

2. In March 1983 an Inter-Agency Meeting of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau was held with the objective of encouraging greater co-operation and co-ordination between national, regional and international agencies relating to women's programmes within the SPC region. That meeting recommended that a meeting of Pacific women be held prior to the End of the Decade World Conference on Women and that ESCAP and SPC act in partnership in preparing for and holding this meeting. This recommendation was endorsed by the 1983 Planning and Evaluation Committee Meeting and the Twenty-third South Pacific Conference. Because of lack of funds, the proposed ESCAP/SPC meeting did not take place prior to the ESCAP Regional Inter-governmental Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference which took place in Tokyo. In addition, ESCAP was unable to organise and service such a meeting in the light of its other commitments to preparatory activities prior to the World Conference.

3. In March 1984, ESCAP convened a Regional Inter-governmental Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference to review and appraise the Decade for Women and to formulate forward-looking strategies to the Year 2000. Only four island countries from the SPC region were able to send representatives to that meeting at which the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau was also represented. In the Secretariat's view, the needs of the Pacific Sub-region of ESCAP were not adequately represented or reflected in the plan of action resulting from that meeting. It was therefore considered essential that a follow-up meeting to the Seminar held in Tahiti in 1981 be held prior to the UN End of the Decade Conference and the NGO Forum in Nairobi in July 1985.

4. The Twenty-third South Pacific Conference in endorsing this recommendation directed the Secretary-General to seek external funding for a Joint Regional Meeting of Government representatives and representatives of Non-Government Organisations on women's affairs in the Pacific. The main objective of this meeting was to review progress made since the 1981 Tahiti Women's Seminar, assess the recommendations made from the evaluation of different programmes, and formulate future strategies for women and development programmes in the Pacific. This meeting, hosted by Cook Islands, was held from 25 to 27 March 1985.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5. The Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific was made possible as a result of the generous financial support of:

- Australian Development Assistance Bureau
- Pacific Islands Association
- Asia Foundation
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Canadian High Commission in Australia and New Zealand
- Commonwealth Foundation
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific
- United Methodist Mission
- World YWCA.

6. The South Pacific Commission is deeply grateful to the Government of the Cook Islands who hosted this Joint Meeting and who extended such a cordial welcome and hospitality to all the delegates.

II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL OPENING

7. An opening prayer was given by Sister Tui'fua of Tonga.
8. This was followed by the opening statement by Sir Thomas Davis, KBE, Prime Minister of Cook Islands. Sir Thomas stated that because women are half the population of each country, they are also responsible for the future development of their country. It is true that women throughout the world have had less representation in decision-making bodies than men. However, most leaders of the Pacific no longer will accept this as the rule for the future.
9. Sir Thomas went on to say that with the freedom to participate in one's country's growth and development comes responsibilities. While women have their natural roles, which partly define the division of labour, they must also strive to achieve and carry out activities to further their country's development.
10. With these remarks Sir Thomas declared the meeting open.
11. Daw Aye, Head, ESCAP Women's Programmes, delivered a message from the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Mr S.A.M.S. Kibria. Mr Kibria extended his gratitude to the South Pacific Commission and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Women, for financial assistance to enable this meeting to take place. He also expressed his pleasure that the deliberations of this meeting will be brought to the attention of the Nairobi World Conference to Review and Appraise the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.
12. ESCAP attaches great importance to the concerns of Pacific women and their participation in development, and in this regard has provided substantial technical assistance to the Pacific region in the past. In addition, a Pacific woman has been appointed to the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in Port Vila, Vanuatu, to respond to women's needs in the Pacific. Mr Kibria also thanked Pacific delegates to the Tokyo Conference for the important contributions they made during that meeting.
13. Mr Kibria stated his belief that as long as women remain disadvantaged, both as beneficiaries and contributors to development, development in its fullest sense of promoting human dignity and social equality will not be possible. Therefore women's issues cannot be isolated from other development issues.
14. Mr Kibria concluded his statement by offering his best wishes for the success of the meeting.

15. Mr Tamarii Pierre, Director of Programmes of the South Pacific Commission (SPC), extended his gratitude to the Prime Minister for his opening remarks and to Daw Aye of ESCAP for delivering the kind remarks of Mr Kibria. He also thanked ESCAP for the provision of a consultant to the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and applauded their move to appoint a Pacific woman to the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) in Vanuatu.

16. Mr Pierre also thanked the other sponsors of the meeting for their financial assistance, including the Australian Government, Pacific Islands Association, Asia Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat, United Methodist Church, Cook Islands Government, and Cook Islands National Council of Women.

17. Mr Pierre stated that the main subject matter of this Joint Meeting would be similar to that of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) meeting. However, it would include a more in-depth discussion by women's representatives on the activities of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and its plans for the future. General approaches to women's activities in the region would also be discussed. The South Pacific Commission felt that this Joint Meeting of government and NGO representatives was a unique experiment, but one which was important to analyse more thoroughly and plan the activities of women's development in the region.

18. Mr Pierre went on to point out that our existence is the result of a joint effort between men and women, and it is only by continuing this joint effort that the full potential of development in the region will be realised. It is not simply women's affairs that deserve women's participation - women also should be equally and fully integrated into the development of the region.

19. Mr Pierre apologised for the SPC Secretary-General's absence from the meeting and extended his best wishes for the success of both meetings.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE

20. The representative of Cook Islands was first nominated for the position of chairperson; however, she declined the nomination. Subsequently, the representative of Western Samoa, Mrs Noumea Simi, was elected to the chair.

21. Mrs Noumea Simi expressed her gratitude and her hopes for the meeting to make positive recommendations to further the situation of women in the Pacific.

22. Mr Pierre stated that under normal South Pacific Commission procedure the first draft of a meeting report is prepared by the Secretariat and that the role of the drafting committee is to review what the Secretariat has written.

23. The following participants volunteered to serve on the drafting committee:

The representatives of: Australia
 French Polynesia
 American Samoa
 Northern Mariana Islands
 Papua New Guinea.

HOURS OF WORK

24. The following hours of work were agreed upon:

8.30 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.	Plenary
10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.	Tea-break
10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.	Plenary
11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	Lunch
1.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.	Plenary
2.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.	Tea-break
3.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	Plenary

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

25. The Secretariat suggested an addition to the provisional agenda as follows:

Item 6 - "Statements by representatives of agencies/institutions on their activities and plans relating to women's affairs in the region." Therefore original Item 6 would become Item 7 and Item 7 become Item 8.

26. The representative of Niue suggested that an evaluation of the meeting should follow Agenda Item 8 - Adoption of the report. Following discussion, the plan was suggested that an evaluation questionnaire form and a discussion session at the end of the meeting (time permitting) both be used to evaluate the meeting.

27. The provisional agenda was adopted with the additional item added.

28. Following the adoption of the agenda the representative of Federated States of Micronesia asked the Secretariat to introduce the representatives of donor agencies attending the meeting.

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING OF PACIFIC ISLANDS WOMEN'S NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

29. The report of the Pacific Islands Women's NGOs Regional Meeting was introduced by the recorder from the NGO meeting, Dr Penelope Schoeffel. Following some discussion it was decided to adjourn the meeting to enable delegates to review the report thoroughly.

30. The chairperson reopened the session with a brief review of the purposes of the report of the NGO meeting. The report will be used to relay the concerns of Pacific women at the Nairobi Forum meeting, and it was hoped that government representatives going to this meeting might also find the document useful.

31. The chairperson then invited the recorder from the NGO meeting to report on recommendations and endorsements from the NGO meeting which were not included in the report. These were as follows:

"That this meeting requests the South Pacific Commission through the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau to urge the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations at their May (1985) meeting to give the South Pacific Commission the mandate to work with Non-Government Organisations in the South Pacific region.

"With reference to four of the points put forward by the NGO sub-committee for the establishment of the Pacific Regional Women's Non-Governmental Organisation (PRWNGO), the following four points were endorsed:

"In reference to funding efforts, it was pointed out that:

1. Our first successful regional fund-raising effort is that the Canadian High Commissioner in Australia has committed funds for two people to attend the Nairobi Conference in July 1985, and in addition, funds for two other delegates have been secured from other sources.
2. It was also suggested that each of us (NGO representatives) go to our own countries and request funding on behalf of the PRWNGO).
3. Various Pacific agencies, including the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, will be approached regarding a co-ordinator.
4. As projects are formulated, relevant funding agencies will be approached."

32. Discussion took place on the use of the NGO meeting report and especially the recommendations by the current meeting's delegates. It was generally felt that the report was to be used as a guide for government representatives to take home and discuss with governments and other women's affairs agencies in their countries for appropriate priority action and implementation.

33. A question was raised as to whether this meeting could change the recommendations to suit their purposes. Ms Lini, SPC/PWRB Women's Programmes Development Officer (English), answered that if some recommendations were not palatable to the countries, they may re-word them when they return home to suit their local environment.

34. With reference to the use of recommendations from the NGO meeting, the NGO representative from Fiji referred the meeting to the objectives set for the Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Women's Non-Governmental Organisations. She felt that the report summarised the work carried out by the meeting to achieve these objectives and it should be used as a reference document to put to all forums including this current government one, in order to facilitate work on women's issues in the future.

35. The SPC Director of Programmes further clarified the issue of changes to the NGO meeting report. It was felt by the Secretariat that this meeting should not alter the report, which is from another meeting. The purpose of the report was to allow government representatives to review the issues discussed by NGOs and to ally themselves with the strategies in their report or to adopt alternative strategies if they differed from those in the NGO report.

36. There was some discussion on the ability of this meeting to commit governments to some recommendations, and the Secretariat suggested that they may just be noted.

37. The recommendations of the report were then systematically reviewed. (These recommendations appear in Section II of the report of the Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Women's Non-Governmental Organisations [Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 19-23 March 1985].)

38. "Women and health"

Recommendation 5 - It was noted that some countries objected to the use of the words "sex education" and another disliked the word "compulsory".

39. The representative of Guam moved that in order to facilitate the review process and given the time allotted earlier to read all papers, the meeting should accept recommendations in groups (i.e. national, regional) rather than one at a time.

40. The motion was seconded by the representative of American Samoa and was carried with only one objection.

41. Review of the recommendations under "Women and health" continued with comments on the first fifteen recommendations (Nos. 5-19) for national-level implementation. Concern was expressed by the representatives of Australia, American Samoa, and Fiji with reference to Recommendation 8 on the possible negative aspects that can result for women when maternity leave benefits become a burden on individual employers, especially with respect to effects on employment opportunities and the lack of equality that may result.

42. With reference to Recommendation 15, the representative of Papua New Guinea questioned the cultural impacts of having a "safe house". Discussion followed on the definition and aims of "safe house" accommodation for abused women and it was recognised that some countries may choose not to act on this recommendation because of cultural or economic constraints. There being no further comments on national-level recommendations, the meeting continued by reviewing regional-level recommendations (Nos. 20-25).

43. The University of the South Pacific (USP) representative identified two areas where USP could assist women in the region. Under Recommendation 22 she said that USP can and is doing a lot in this area and suggested that women from Guam and Papua New Guinea approach their universities to encourage them to assist in this area. She also reported that Massey University (New Zealand) offered assistance to USP in regard to Recommendation 23 in the area of higher nurse training. She added that nursing associations need to urge health departments to invite their support for this planned programme to USP.

44. The representative of Guam reported that the University of Guam does offer extension courses, but would like to work more closely with USP, subject to consultations with the President of the University of Guam.

45. The representative of American Samoa questioned Recommendation 23 because the qualifications of graduates from such courses may not be considered equivalent to those of graduates from overseas degree programmes.

46. The meeting's attention was drawn to the additional issues and recommendations in the section "Women and health".

47. The recommendations made in the section "Women and health" were then approved by the meeting, and discussion opened on recommendations under the section "Women, education and training" (Nos. 26-33).

48. The representative of Federated States of Micronesia queried the merit of the final statement in Recommendation 33 - "women as an equal partner to men in all systems: social, economic and political", when a recommendation in the "Women and health" section sought legislation with respect to maternity leave which will create inequalities. The representative of Australia pointed out that inequalities in treatment are sometimes necessary in order to create equality of outcome.

49. The USP representative was concerned that the reference to "high cost of correspondence courses" was inaccurate, as she felt they are, in fact, much less expensive than residential courses.

50. It was agreed that the drafting committee for the NGO meeting redraft the statement. (See Recommendation 28.)

51. In the section "Women, employment and income generation" (Recommendations 34-40), the representative of Vanuatu questioned the absence of agriculture and fishing as income-generating and employment activities for women. Ms Lini acknowledged the omission and suggested that the NGO drafting committee make recommendations.

52. For the section "Women in politics and decision making" (Recommendations 41-49), representatives of both French Polynesia and New Caledonia asked that it be noted that they were not in agreement with the inclusion of their countries' names in Recommendation 49, and that the French Polynesia representative to the NGO meeting had in fact voted against the recommendation initially. It was pointed out that the New Caledonia NGO representative had voted for the recommendation and that the motion had passed with only one negative vote (French Polynesia) and one abstention (American Samoa).

53. After further discussion on the political implications of the recommendation, the Director of Programmes suggested that while the South Pacific Commission is not a political organisation, it could be noted in the record that there were differing opinions on the issues put forward in this recommendation.

54. Concerning the section "Issues of culture, custom and law that affect the role and status of women" (Recommendations 76-85), the meeting was informed of a correction of Strategy No. 7, which should read: "that the Women's Bureau should co-ordinate the collection of Pacific arts and craft from all parts of the Pacific for the Nairobi Conference". Ms Lini and the representative of Australia both pointed out that a venue for the exhibit would have to be organised immediately. The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau volunteered to contact the Forum Committee to enquire about exhibit space.

55. For the section "Development project planning and resource availability" (Recommendations 86-93), a correction to Recommendation 90 had been left out of the amendment to the draft report. The recommendation should read:

"That governments be strongly urged to ensure that rapid progress is made on the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, and that a satisfactory result for the people of the South Pacific be reached on issues of nuclear waste dumping and nuclear testing."

56. On the final section of the report, Plan of Action leading up to the (SPC) Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations and Nairobi World Conference, the representative of Australia reported that the Vienna planning meeting for the world conference lasted ten days and achieved very little because of "political fighting between the superpowers". Therefore she warned the meeting that they must have a clear strategy for achieving their aims at the Nairobi Conference in order to help ensure their achievement.

57. Ms Lini also attended the Vienna Conference and reported that the Commonwealth countries do have a clear strategy, and suggested that Commonwealth countries should be informed of this strategy. The Fiji NGO representative recommended that a united Pacific approach was the best. Several participants expressed the hope that Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands could organise a concerted effort.

58. Mme Marie-Claire Beccalossi, SPC/PWRB Women's Programmes Development Officer (French), informed the representatives of the French territories that they should contact Mme Yvette Roudy, Minister for the Rights of Women in France, regarding their participation at the Nairobi Conference.

59. After some discussion the meeting voted to receive and take note of the NGO report and to present it to their governments as the wishes of the NGO women of the Pacific.

60. The attention of the delegates was drawn to Working Paper 1 and Working Paper 2 and the evaluation of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB) by Mrs Dorienne Wilson-Smillie of the Commonwealth Secretariat. One major recommendation of the evaluation report was that a clear policy for the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau should be developed. This policy was developed last year and is outlined in draft form in Working Paper 2.

61. The tables at the end of Working Paper 1 summarise the activities of the PWRB in anglophone countries. It was pointed out that some countries benefited more from the Bureau's activities than others.

62. Mme Beccalossi gave a presentation of her work in French territories. She pointed out that most people do not know of the South Pacific Commission, and therefore she has spent considerable time explaining what the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau is in order to initiate activities and training.

63. Discussion on Working Paper 1 was invited and this centred mainly on issues concerning communication activities, the Community Education Training Centre (CETC) in Suva, Fiji, and pre-school development projects.

64. The need to secure funding and employ a communications specialist for the Bureau was emphasised. Ms Lini also described another project for which the Bureau is seeking funding, namely, "Communication Skills Development Project", which would provide in-country training courses in communication skills for women.

65. Many questions and comments were raised concerning the CETC in Suva, which stimulated much discussion. Discussions centred on the following issues:

- (a) the planned relocation and rebuilding of the centre to provide a more rural and community-based centre;
- (b) that the training and curriculum may not promote the development of women trainees as mature and independent workers;
- (c) the benefit of having an integrated programme;
- (d) the close co-operation between the PWRB and the CETC;
- (e) the difficulties in some countries of employing CETC graduates upon their return. This applies at both government and non-government levels. The possibility of raising funds to employ NGO graduates was also raised;
- (f) the difficulties of NGOs funding one-way air fares;
- (g) the need for governments and NGOs to provide sufficient allowance for the trainees;
- (h) the problems for francophone women attending the course;
- (i) the development and implementation of the new curriculum;
- (j) the need for follow-up evaluation of CETC graduates;
- (k) the age limit for trainees creating difficulties for some countries;
- (l) the need for co-ordination between NGOs and government agencies in sharing information about courses available and in selecting trainees.

66. The representative of Fiji recommended that all the comments and concerns from this joint meeting regarding the CETC be directed to the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) meeting in May 1985.

67. The representative of Papua New Guinea enquired about the possibility of the South Pacific Commission assisting in the establishment of a CETC-like centre in Papua New Guinea in order to serve the training needs better of women in Papua New Guinea. The Secretariat responded that they may be able to advise and assist upon receipt of a request from government.

68. Clarification on the Pacific Pre-School Development Programme was sought. Mrs Marjorie Crocombe, Director of Extension Services at the University of the South Pacific, described the communications network and training role of the Pacific Pre-School Council. The SPC Secretariat confirmed that they would be recommending that the item on pre-school development programmes be deleted from SPC's 1986 work programme since it was clear that the Pacific Pre-School Council through the USP extension services, which commenced work in this area in 1981, was already well advanced. The PWRB is channelling and will continue to channel any requests for assistance in this area to the Council and co-operate with them when seeking funds.

69. The representative of Guam noted that her country had not been listed as a country visited by the staff of the PWRB. She then requested the Bureau to visit Guam.

70. During these discussions presentations were made by representatives of the following organisations:

- East-West Center - The representative described new research projects affecting women, which will be carried out by the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDI), pending their approval by the Pacific Islands Conference later this year.
- World Health Organization (WHO) - The representative encouraged participants to contact country liaison offices in the region for assistance in specific activities, especially in order to achieve the global and national goals of "Health for All by the Year 2000".

71. Working Paper 2, the draft Pacific Women's Resource Bureau policy statement, was discussed.

72. The question of the PWRB's linkages with the newly formed Pacific Regional Women's Non-Governmental Organisation (PRWNGO) was raised. It was pointed out that a recommendation from the NGO meeting will be presented to the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in May 1985, which asks that the South Pacific Commission be given the mandate to work directly with non-government organisations.

73. The meeting recommended that the following goal be added to the draft policy statement to ensure close co-ordination between the PWRB and the PRWNGO:

- "To develop a direct working relationship with the Pacific Regional Women's Non-Governmental Organisation in order to better co-ordinate activities for women of non-governmental organisations in the region".

74. Concerning the Implementation Strategy of the draft policy statement, there was a correction under the third point which should read "training services to ensure that the staff understand the issues and respond accordingly".

75. The Secretariat explained that it aims to take women's needs into account in the development of its work programme activities. In addition, plans for the collection and analysis of data on women's socio-economic status are soon to be implemented, which will assist in carrying out the Bureau's objectives. The report of last week's non-government organisations' meeting also adds specific activities relating to women, which will give further direction to the Bureau's activities.

STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF AGENCIES/INSTITUTIONS ON THEIR
ACTIVITIES AND PLANS RELATING TO WOMEN'S AFFAIRS IN THE REGION

76. Representatives of a number of agencies and institutions made presentations.

77. University of the South Pacific (USP) - The representative explained that USP is not a funding agency, but does provide training for women in degree, diploma and certificate courses, and also has a network of nine extension centres which provide non-formal education at the grass-roots level. She also reported that the number of women in important positions is on the increase at USP and on the University Council.

78. Ofis Blong ol Meri - The representative described the work of this NGO, which is a special regional project of the World YWCA. Their main areas of work are in networking and communication, leadership training, and assisting women's groups in seeking funds for their activities.

79. Australian Development Assistance Bureau (ADAB) - Representatives of the Women in Development Unit and the South Pacific Section of ADAB were introduced. A representative of the Office of the Status of Women, Office of the Prime Minister, was also introduced. Collectively they described their policies on women in development and the channels through which governments and NGOs could work to obtain assistance. It was indicated that they are interested in funding innovative and catalytic projects which do not reinforce stereotyped roles for women.

80. Women and Development Network of Australia (WADNA) - The representative described the Pacific People's Support project, which offers channels for funding for NGO women's projects. WADNA also monitors and lobbies NGOs and government organisations in Australia for aid for women in the Pacific.

81. Commonwealth Secretariat - The representative indicated that the Women and Development Programme's primary Pacific interest is with the PWRB.

82. The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation funds the position of anglophone women's officer in the PWRB and concentrates its work and funds on areas of concern identified by the PWRB.

83. Funds have been made available for training in communication and management skills. The representative also described the work of the Commonwealth Foundation, which has a mandate to deal directly with NGOs, and requested participants from Commonwealth countries to lobby their heads of government to vote for increased funding for the Foundation at the next meeting of Heads of Commonwealth Governments.

84. Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP), Tonga - The representative described the work of the board of trustees set up to administer and fund FSP programmes in Tonga. FSP, Tonga, is able to control its own funding programmes without referral to headquarters in New York.

85. Their funds come from FSP, New York, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

86. Baha'i International Community - The representative referred participants to a paper outlining Baha'i approaches to women in development. Funding assistance for SPC's CETC and nutrition programmes was outlined.

87. New Zealand - The representative indicated that bilateral, regional and multilateral assistance programmes for women are similar to those described by ADAB. It was also reported that advice had been received from the New Zealand Government regarding the request from SPC to fund the position of Communications Specialist for the PWRB. Of the eight project requests submitted for funding, the position of Communications Specialist was given lowest priority by SPC and therefore has not been funded yet.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PACIFIC WOMEN'S RESOURCE BUREAU'S FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

88. Because of the importance of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau in women's activities in the region, the meeting felt that strong recommendations should be made to ensure the continuity and future development of the PWRB.

89. The meeting requested that the SPC Secretariat bring to the attention of the May 1985 CRGA the recommendation (No. 88) in the NGO meeting report concerning the ratification of the United Nations Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

90. After much discussion, the report was adopted.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting recommended that:

Recommendation No. 1

This Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations on Women's Affairs in the Pacific support the first draft of the policy statement on the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau.

Recommendation No. 2

The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau continue its present activities and take into consideration the priorities presented in the report of the Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Women's Non-Governmental Organisations (Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 19-23 March 1985), in designing its future activities.

Recommendation No. 3

The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau should co-ordinate the review of the impact on women of the general programmes of the South Pacific Commission.

Recommendation No. 4

Because this Joint Meeting considers the funding of the post of Communications Specialist for the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau a top priority, that the South Pacific Commission continue to seek funding for this staff position.

Recommendation No. 5

The South Pacific Commission seek funding for the additional post of Administrative Assistant to the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau to enable the Bureau to carry out its co-ordinating role more effectively.

Recommendation No. 6

The South Pacific Commission make a positive commitment to the continuation of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau by funding at least one staff position in the Bureau.

Recommendation No. 7

The French Government continue to fund the post of the Women's Programmes Development Officer for francophone countries.

Recommendation No. 8

The South Pacific Commission organise a follow-up Joint Regional Meeting of Government Representatives and Representatives of Non-Government Organisations in two years' time.



ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Official opening
2. Election of Chairperson and drafting committee
3. Hours of work
4. Adoption of agenda
5. Report of the Regional Meeting of Pacific Islands Women's Non-Governmental Organisations (Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 19-23 March 1985)
6. Statements by representatives of agencies/institutions on their activities and plans relating to women's affairs in the region
7. Consideration of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau's future activities in women and development
8. Adoption of the report



ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX III

LIST OF WORKING PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING

SPC/Women 2/WP.1	The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau of the South Pacific Commission, presented by the Secretariat.
WP.2	Pacific Women's Resource Bureau Policy Statement, presented by the Secretariat.

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