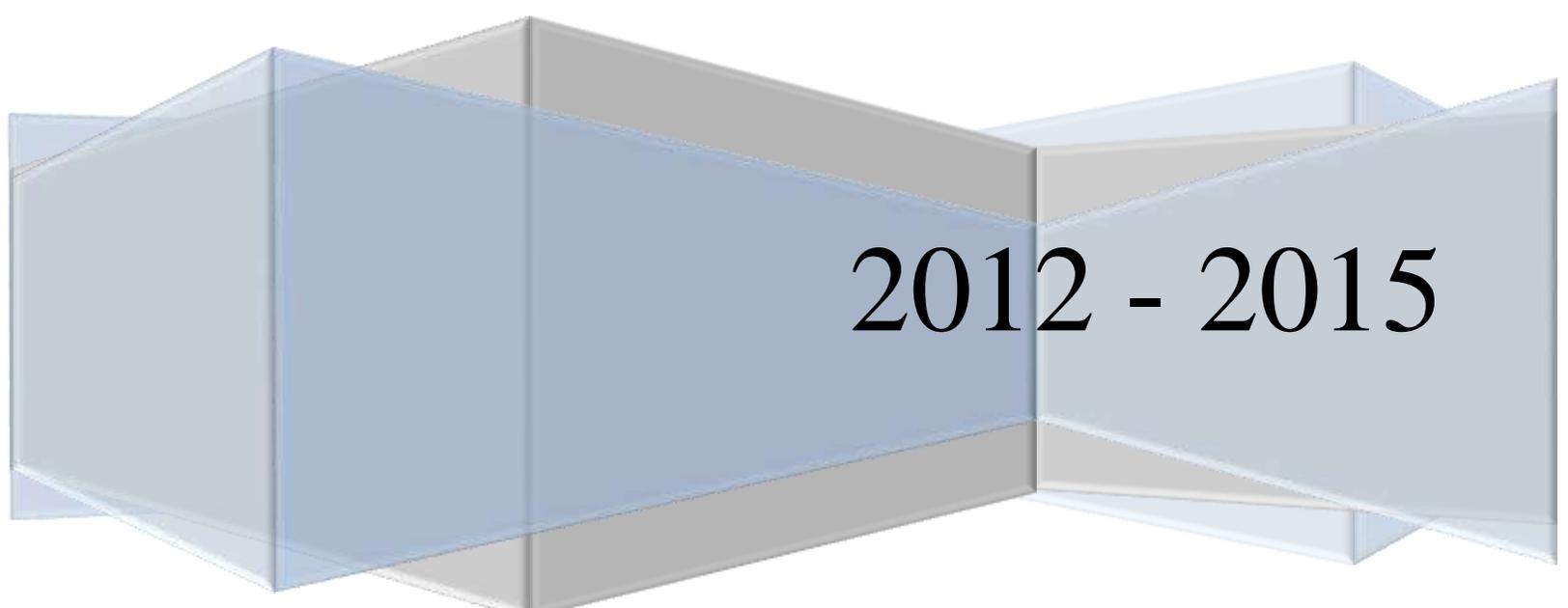


# **Pacific Regional Action Plan**

**Women, Peace and Security**



**2012 - 2015**

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## Introduction

Since the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325: *Women, Peace and Security*, in 2000, there have been increasing recognition in the Pacific of women and young women's role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and that sexual and gender-based violence is a security threat in the region. There have also been significant consultations on these areas and priorities for action have been identified.

In December 2010 as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of UNSCR 1325, a Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security was established with members from Forum Members, CROP and UN agencies, and civil society. In June 2011, the Forum Regional Security Committee gave the group the policy task of developing a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. This was subsequently supported by Pacific Women's Ministers in August of the same year.

The Regional Action Plan provides a framework at the regional level for Forum Members and Pacific Territories to enhance women and young women's leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, mainstream gender in security policy-making, and ensure women and girls' human rights are protected in humanitarian crises, transitional contexts and post-conflict situations. It also sets out a regional mechanism that will support regional and national efforts.

The Regional Action Plan sets out the following:

- Purpose of the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and background to this initiative.
- Why women, peace and security are important in the Pacific region?
- Mandate provided by regional organisations for the development of the Regional Action Plan.
- Situating the Regional Action Plan within the regional security, conflict prevention and gender equality architecture.
- Overview of the three strategic focus areas of the Regional Action Plan.
- How the Regional Action Plan was formulated and will be implemented.
- Regional Action Plan matrix of activities (September 2012 – September 2015).
- Draft terms of reference for a regional mechanism to support implementation of the Regional Action Plan and provide technical assistance to Pacific Island Countries.

## I. Purpose of the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012 - 2015)

The Regional Action Plan<sup>1</sup> provides a broad framework at the regional level to assist Forum Members and Pacific Territories<sup>2</sup> to accelerate implementation of existing international, regional and national commitments on women, peace and security.

Formulating the Regional Action Plan has provided an opportunity for the region to identify broad priorities, initiate strategic actions, and determine responsibilities among different actors. It also ensures that Women, Peace and Security activities are not seen as standalone efforts but rather as an integral part of regional peace and security discussions, in line with regional efforts of promoting gender equality.

The development of the Regional Action Plan has also been a substantive step towards mainstreaming gender and bringing more women and young women into official peace and security processes at the regional level, as well as creating a supporting mechanism for regional and national efforts on Women, Peace and Security.

The Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security has the following purposes:

- Provide a regional policy and programmatic framework that compliments and supports national efforts and provides guidance to those countries that cannot afford to develop such a plan at the national level. This will also help to save scarce resources.
- Provide an enabling environment at the regional level to improve women and young women's leadership in conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping, security policy decision-making and ensure women's and girls' human rights are protected;
- Strengthen civil society, women's groups, including young women and gender equality advocates engagement with regional security and conflict prevention policy and decision-making;
- Develop a partnership between government representatives from Pacific Island Countries and Territories, CROP and UN agencies and civil society, which will help to coordinate efforts and avoid duplication and overlap;
- Pool at the regional level Women, Peace and Security technical assistance, capacity development support and financial resources;
- Collect, store and share research and analysis on Women, Peace and Security that will be used to inform regional and national policy and programming efforts;
- Support reporting and monitoring of existing commitments and help to assess progress;

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant RAPs: EU Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace, and Security & Implementation of UNSCR 1325 as Reinforced by UNSCR 1820 in the Context of European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP); AU Gender Policy, released in 2009, draws upon international gender equality instruments including UNSCR 1325; SADC Protocol on Gender and Development; In December 2006, the ICGLR member states adopted the Pact on Peace, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region, which integrates 1325; The Economic Commission for the Great Lakes Countries Regional Plan of Action for Implementation of 1325 in three countries and Regional Steering Committee; Mano River Union developing a RAP and; Dakar Declaration and ECOWAS Plan of Action for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in West Africa.

<sup>2</sup> The RAP covers all members of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The RAP will also be shared with Territories covered by SPC and they will be able to draw on support offered regionally for work on Women, Peace and Security.

- Support fundraising to enhance donor commitments to the advancement of Women, Peace and Security issues in the region.

It is envisaged that through a regional approach Pacific Island Countries and Territories will be able to more easily learn from each other, draw upon civil society knowledge, and receive global support from UN Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) on Women, Peace and Security, the Pacific Members of the Asia-Pacific Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security and regional support from the Forum Secretariat, CROP agencies, such as Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats and UN agencies. Support for Women, Peace and Security has been reflected in the development of the Pacific UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> There are a number of examples of UN support to developing RAPs and NAPs on Women, Peace and Security, including: a) A regional forum on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 was initiated by UN Office for West Africa, which resulted in Dakar Declaration and ECOWAS Plan of Action for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in West Africa; b) UNDP and UN Women have assisted Solomon Islands Government to develop a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security; c) UNFPA and UN Women have provided assistance to a number of countries, including Sierra Leone, Uganda and Nepal to develop NAPs on WPS. This is the first time that the UN will be collectively pooling its support to assist a region to implement UNSCR 1325.

## II. Background

The Pacific, like other regions, is dealing with a difficult and diverse set of law enforcement, governance and security challenges. The nature of security has evolved considerably for the Pacific Islands Forum since the first coup in Fiji in 1987 and the civil war in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea in the 1990s. In the recent past, the region has witnessed and continues to be affected by armed conflict, civil unrest, tribal fighting, and local level conflicts over resources, increasing violent crime and political crises.

Research by the Forum Secretariat<sup>4</sup> has brought out the following issues as potential drivers of instability and insecurity that resonate across the region: economic inequalities; land management and tenure systems; weak governance capacity; unemployed and alienated youth; increasing migration from rural to urban areas and poorly planned urbanisation; and inter-group tensions and the mobilisation of grievances and (mis)perceptions.

More recently, the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) has also discussed the potential that forced migration and displacement, as a result of climate change<sup>5</sup> and the issue of poor management of natural resources will have on the stability of Pacific Island Countries and Territories.<sup>6</sup> It is widely understood that climate change and natural disasters are threat multipliers that can exacerbate existing trends and tensions and result in violence and instability.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, as has been witnessed during natural disasters and conflicts, forced displacement heavily disrupts the lives of women and their families and increases the risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

At the same time, it has been recognized by the FRSC that instability and insecurity has a differentiated impact on men, women and children and that each has unique contributions to preventing and managing conflict and sustaining peace in communities and at the national and regional level. Given the fact that women and girls' can be disproportionately affected by conflict, and can play a specific role in conflict prevention and resolution, the linkages between women and conflict also deserve special attention. It also calls for gender-specific approaches to conflict prevention initiatives where appropriate.<sup>8</sup>

Between 2006 and 2011, the Forum Secretariat has responded to Pacific Island Countries' request to broaden the concept of security in regional policy-making, to include: the importance of women's role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding; enhancing the oversight and accountability of security institutions and; recognizing that sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a security threat in the region.

In the region, there have also been notable efforts by a few Pacific Island Countries to accelerate implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012,

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<sup>4</sup> See: PIFS (08) FRSC 2.2: *Human Security Framework for Conflict Prevention in the Pacific Region*

<sup>5</sup> See: UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/63/281): Climate change and its possible security implications and 2008 and; Pacific Islands Forum Leader's Niue Declaration on Climate Change;

<sup>6</sup> See: 2011 FRSC Outcomes Statement

<sup>7</sup> UN Security Council Presidential Statement 2011/14, which articulated the concern that "adverse effects of climate change [...] may aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security and; G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting Chair's Statement in the lead up to the May 2012 meeting of the G8, which recognized climate change as a factor in increasing global security risks.

<sup>8</sup> See: PIFS (08) FRSC 2.3: *Human Security Issues – Partnerships in Gender, Peace and Security*.

Australia launched a National Action Plan on 1325 (2012 – 2018). It is expected that Solomon Islands will launch its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012 – 2015) this year. Discussions are ongoing in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to develop an action plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Over the last five years, there have been significant consultations on these areas at the national and regional level and key challenges, gaps and priorities have been identified, which have informed the development of this Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

### III. Why Women, Peace and Security?

Violence, instability and conflict have had devastating effects on the lives of women and girls including physically, emotionally and psychologically and in their ability to achieve their basic rights and freedoms. Women and young women have also played an important part in conflict prevention, management and recovery in the region.

Direct impacts of armed conflict in the region include death and injuries, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law including sexual and gender-based violence and forced displacement. The damage and loss of lives during conflicts seem small by global standards but have a tremendous impact on the stability of the region, which is highlighted by the estimates that 10% of the population were killed during the Bougainville Crisis and a further 60,000 people displaced. In Solomon Islands the conflict resulted in over 300 people losing their lives and some 50,000 people displaced resulting from threats, abductions and destruction of property. Conflict has also resulted in declining access to basic entitlements such as health services and education, long-term trauma and disruption, in particular to the prospects of an entire generation of youngwomen and men, loss of livelihoods and damage to the social and economic infrastructure, declining levels of investment and economic productivity resulting in contracted economic growth and severe reductions in human development indices and decreased likelihood of achieving the millennium development goals.

Hidden in statistics from conflicts, insecurity and instability in the region is the fact that women and children constitute a disproportionate number of those affected. Women and girls are also at greater risk of other threats to human security, such as sexual exploitation, disproportionate financial hardship in difficult economic times, and in some cases trafficking and prostitution. Furthermore, in times of natural disasters, which are increasing in the Pacific region, women and girls are more prone to sexual violence in the context of displacement, due to the loss of their home or traditional protection mechanisms through family/clan structures. Humanitarian crisis may increase with the rise of sea level, increased occurrences and severity of natural disasters and other impacts of climate change in Pacific Island Countries.

Harmful practices have impacted severely on the status of women and girls in the Pacific. For example, paying bride price has shifted from a traditional symbol of bonding between two clans through marriage, to a modern monetized exchange of goods of cash in payment for a woman's (girl's) services, implying a sense of ownership. The unequal status and power-relations of women's conditions in the Pacific is most graphically illustrated by extreme forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), with high frequencies of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. This is highlighted by recent nationally representative data from Solomon Islands and Kiribati, which revealed prevalence rates of physical and/or sexual partner violence of 64% and 68% respectively, among ever-partnered women aged 15 – 49.<sup>9</sup> Similar studies have taken place in Samoa and are being conducted across the Pacific, including in Fiji, Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu, and in Papua New Guinea. This violence is a result of amongst others things of gender inequality, low status of women legally and culturally, failure of justice systems to protect

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<sup>9</sup> Family Health and Safety Studies carried out by SPC, with support from UNFPA and funding by AusAID. See, [http://210.7.20.137/Pages/Talk\\_Gender.html](http://210.7.20.137/Pages/Talk_Gender.html)

women, which contributes to impunity and breakdown of law and order. High levels of violence can become normalized if they are not effectively addressed in the critical post-conflict period.

In March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, undertook official missions to Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. In both countries she called on the governments to adopt measures to prevent and reduce violence and strengthen protection mechanisms. In Solomon Islands, Ms. Manjoo noted the process of healing and reconciliation still ongoing after the tensions between 1998 and 2003 and the legacy of the crimes committed against women and girls during the tensions. She was informed that the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission includes a specific chapter on women and encouraged government to thoroughly and publicly discuss the TRC findings and recommendations, especially with women's groups. She also noted positive steps to promote women's rights and develop policies to eliminate violence against women, including developing a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. In Papua New Guinea, Ms. Manjoo noted violence against women is pervasive and that women are disproportionately affected by accusations of sorcery/witchcraft. Positive steps were acknowledged including, PNG's participation in Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and development of gender policies. The Special Rapporteur's findings will be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2013.

Another visible manifestation of gender equality in the Pacific region is that it has the lowest proportion of women in national legislatures of any region of the world, with only about 3.4%. In the region, Niue is only one of two Forum Member Countries to achieve above 20% of women's representation in parliament without the introduction of any special measures.<sup>10</sup> Given this situation in recent years the issue of promoting more women in legislatures using Temporary Special Measures (TSM) such as reserved seats or political party quotas has gained increasing attention amongst policy-makers and civil society. Article 4 of CEDAW, which has been ratified by all Forum Island Countries, except for Tonga and Palau, recognises that sometimes governments need to implement affirmative action initiatives or "Temporary Special Measures" to advance gender equality. Tonga has expressed interest in ratifying CEDAW with a number of reservations. Palau is currently undertaking a comprehensive legislative review, including of human rights conventions, such as CEDAW. The revised Pacific Platform for Action 2005 – 2015 also recommends that governments "take affirmative action in policies and practices that enhance gender parity in political representation. In 2005, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea held its first elections under a new constitution, which reserved three seats for women. The constitution also requires that at least one woman be appointed to cabinet.<sup>11</sup> However, at the same time in both the 2005 and more recent election in 2010, no women were elected to open seats. In addition, in 2010 seven Small Island States through PIFS developed national and a sub-regional action plan on increasing women's representation in decision making processes. Discussions on TSM are ongoing in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Federated States of Micronesia, and a Bill has been tabled in Samoa to reserve ten seats for women. The post-conflict period often opens new opportunities for

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<sup>10</sup> Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), (2010) Beijing +15 Report – region in this sentence refers to all the Forum Island countries.

<sup>11</sup> Shanahan, T; Cole, E & Fluri, P (2010) *Enhancing Security Sector Governance in the Pacific Region: A Strategic Framework*, UNDP and PIFS: Suva, Fiji Islands, P. 86 – 88.

women to play a critical role in reconstruction and to take on political roles that reflect the important leadership roles they play in families and communities during a crisis.

Youth make up at least 20 percent of the population of the Pacific and even greater percentage in urban areas in all sub-regions. There are only limited opportunities for young women to participate in national and regional decision-making; this is particularly pronounced in the areas of peace and security.<sup>12</sup> Empowering young people, including young women, to engage in political life and peace and security decision-making is central to strengthening democracy and stability in the region. In 2011, a Pacific Young Women's Alliance was established and is guided by the Pacific Young Women's Leadership strategy, which priorities work to support young women as leaders and active citizens with the capacity to influence the development of their communities, nations, and entire region. The second pillar of the strategy is to secure women's equal participation in achieving peace and security.

In many violent situations in the Pacific region, women and women's organisations have demonstrated their capacity to contribute to solutions, whether as mediators or as part of groups working to improve conditions in local communities, or as providers of safe havens for women and children affected by violence and demanding accountability and respect for human rights.<sup>13</sup> Women have generally been the first to actively work across ethnic divides at considerable personal and organizational risk. For example women have: organised peace vigils, rallies and silent marches, as well as dialogue; held negotiations across crocodile infested rivers with armed combatants; developed peace education methods; encouraged voting through advocacy, awareness raising and education; mediated community disputes; supported soldiers returning from peacekeeping operations; provided technical inputs into defence reviews and national security policy development and; have lead significant efforts across the region to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. These are only a few examples of responses to conflict or perceived threats to human security that women leaders and women's organizations have developed and sustained over the years.

Despite women and young women's productive efforts in Pacific Island Countries and Territories their participation in formal conflict prevention and management and post-conflict recovery efforts, as well as oversight and accountability mechanisms for the security sector is still not fully realized. Women still struggle to be heard at the negotiating table in leadership roles and are not given sufficient recognition and resources to do their work. This is symptomatic of a broader problem in the region related to women's absence from political decision-making at all levels of society and continued high levels of SGBV.

If women and young women's contributions are recognized, sustained, strengthened and expanded, they can make a significant impact in realizing the Leaders' vision of a prosperous, stable and peaceful Pacific region and ensure conflict is avoided and peace is sustained.

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<sup>12</sup> Noble, C; Pereira, N and Saune, N (2011) *Urban Youth in the Pacific: Increasing Resilience and Reducing Risk for Involvement in Crime and Violence*, Suva, Fiji Islands: UNDP Pacific Centre and PIFS.

<sup>13</sup> See: PIFS (2006) *Regional Workshop on Gender, Conflict, Peace and Security Final Outcomes Statement*, 15-17 June, 2006; UNDP (2007), *Human Security in the Pacific Region: Consultation Proceedings*, 24 April – 03 May 2007; PIFS (08) FRSC 2.3: *Human Security Issues – Partnerships in Gender, Peace and Security*; FemLINKPACIFIC (2008) *Women, Peace and Security – Policy Responses and Solutions for our Pacific Region*; Shanahan, T; Cole, E & Fluri, P (2010) *Enhancing Security Sector Governance in the Pacific Region: A Strategic Framework*, UNDP and PIFS: Suva, Fiji Islands and; Porter, E; Mundkur, A & Every, D (2011) *Women, Peace and Security in Partner Countries: Analysis of the Impact of UNSCR 1325*, Policy Brief written for AusAID.

## IV. Mandate for the Regional Action Plan

The mandate for the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security emanates from the Forum Regional Security Committee discussions in 2010 and 2011 and Pacific Women's Triennial Conference in 2010.

In 2010, the FRSC welcomed UN taking the lead on Women, Peace and Security and convening a regional process with support from SPC and FemLINKPACIFIC. This proposal was supported in the outcome statement of 11<sup>th</sup> Pacific Women's Triennial Conference convened by SPC in 2010, which specifically called for the development of a Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Women, Peace and Security.

At the 2011 meeting the FRSC “welcomed the establishment of the Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, recognizing the importance of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 in addressing the key role women play across the entire scope of peace and security activity, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to work in support of the Group. The Committee also welcomed the report of the Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, recognizing the importance of women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and peace building. The Committee supported the preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and undertook to consider at the 2012 FRSC Meeting how this might be best taken forward for the consideration of Forum leaders.”

The FRSC mandate also builds on the following international and regional commitments and outcomes from relevant conferences:

- International commitments and obligations, such as: UN Security Council Resolutions 1325<sup>14</sup>, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960<sup>15</sup>; Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); Beijing Platform for Action; Commonwealth Women Affairs Ministers Meeting Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality (WAMM – CPoA / 2005 – 2015) and; UN Secretary General's Seven Point Action Plan on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding<sup>16</sup>;
- Recommendations from the Secretariat hosted Gender, Conflict, Peace and Security Regional Workshop in 2006. The conference expressed the need to support women's participation in all aspects of conflict prevention, peace negotiations and post-conflict recovery in the region. It was the first time that women were able to formally engage with Forum officials on security issues;

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<sup>14</sup> On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325). The resolution was automatically adopted by member states of the United Nations and implementation is mandated by Article 25 of the UN Charter. It was the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women and girls, and women's contributions to conflict prevention and sustainable peace. It was a watershed, because it demonstrated what is possible when the UN, member states and women's civil society collaborate. The resolution signaled a shift in the role of women from victimhood to critical change agents in conflict prevention and management and peace building. This happened because it not only focused on the protection of women in crisis situations, but also called for the full and equal participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding; the mainstreaming of gender equality in peacekeeping missions; and called for the UN to appoint women into strategic positions related to peace and security.

<sup>15</sup> Even in Member countries that have not experienced recent violent conflict, UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960, provide a useful framework of ensuring due consideration is given to gender dimensions of peace, security and stability, and in regard to the pervasive nature of violence against women, girls and boys in the region.

<sup>16</sup> See: [www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/seven\\_point\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/seven_point_action_plan.pdf)

- Recommendations from the UNDP, PIFS, University of South Pacific and FemLINKPACIFIC organised human security consultations with government, women's groups and civil society that took place in 2007;
- Recommendations from UNDP and PIFS Regional Ministerial Conference on Security Sector Governance held in Tonga in 2009, which included representatives from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu;
- Regional commitments, such as: Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women 2005 – 2015; Pacific Small Island Developing States statements at the UN Security Council Open Debate on UNSCR 1325; Pacific Women's Ministers meeting in 2011 and; Pacific Young Women's Leadership Strategy 2011 – 2014.

## V. Context for the Regional Action Plan

The Regional Action Plan is situated in the context of the implementation of Pacific Platform of Action for Gender Equality, Biketawa Declaration and Pacific Plan, and supporting the Forum Regional Security Committee to ensure gender is mainstreamed in regional policy-making on security and conflict prevention issues.

### *Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality*

At the 9<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in 2004, ministers, government officials and civil society representatives recognized peace and security as critical issues and added it to the Pacific Platform of Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005 – 2015. The conference called on governments to: “implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which provides a comprehensive framework for the promotion and support of the protection of women and their role in peacebuilding at all levels of our society right from the family unit; recognise and enhance women’s inclusion in early warning systems, conflict prevention and peace processes and negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction; make use of regional and international organisations to conduct gender sensitivity training for peacekeepers so as to ensure they are sensitive to issues on the ground; utilize the provisions under the Biketawa Declaration to proactively monitor national security situations with the view to averting potential conflicts and resolving possible conflicts by peaceful means.”<sup>17</sup>

### *Biketawa Declaration*

In 2000, due to the double shock of coups in Fiji and Solomon Islands, Leaders’ adopted the Biketawa Declaration.<sup>18</sup> The declaration sets the framework for regional conflict prevention and management of political crises. It also recognized the essential role of full participation of all citizens, without discrimination. One of the guiding principles of the Declaration recognises ‘*the importance of averting the causes of conflict...*’, and the declaration directs that the action to be taken in times of crisis: *...must constructively address difficult and sensitive issues underlying causes of tensions and conflict, explicitly raising long-standing and difficult issues, ethnic tensions, socio-economic disparities, lack of good governance, land disputes and erosion of cultural values.*<sup>19</sup> The Biketawa Declaration also for the first time allowed the Secretary-General of the Forum Secretariat to act in a “good offices” capacity to address developing security crises and laid out a range of tools. These included statements by Pacific Islands Forum Members, the creation of ministerial action groups, fact-finding missions, the use of eminent persons, third-party mediation, convening of special leaders or ministerial-level meetings, and support for

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<sup>17</sup> SPC (2004) *A Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality – A Regional Charter, 2005 – 2015*; Proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, 16-19 August 2004 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Women, 19-20 August 2004.

<sup>18</sup> There are other security declarations. See: *Honiara (1992)*: recognized that an adverse law enforcement environment could threaten the sovereignty, security and economic integrity of Forum members and jeopardize economic and social development; *Aitutaki Declaration (1997)*: Leaders’ agreed to a number of principles governing security cooperation in the region; *Nadi Framework Initiative (2000)*: provided a legal framework for a common approach to weapons control in the region and; *Nasonini (2002)*: adopted as a response to the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks on the United States. It recognized the need for immediate and sustained regional action in response to security threats, including counter-terrorism.

<sup>19</sup> Pacific Islands Forum (2000), *Biketawa Declaration*. See: <http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/article/files/Biketawa%20Declaration.%2028%20October%202000.pdf>.

institutions and mechanisms which could assist a resolution.<sup>20</sup> The declaration also commits Forum Members to some key fundamental values including, among others, the importance of averting the causes of conflict, upholding democratic processes and the rule of law, and commitment to good governance, including transparency and accountability. The Biketawa Declaration has been used for a number of actions in Solomon Islands, Fiji and Nauru.

### ***Pacific Plan***

There are a number of common challenges that require collective action at the regional level. This is most clearly articulated in the Pacific Plan, which Leaders' adopted in 2005, which has a broad definition of security, including a focus on human security as one of four priority goals for the region, and a crosscutting strategic objectives to improve gender equality and enhance involvement of youth.

### ***Regional Security and Conflict Prevention Decision-Making: Forum Regional Security Committee***

The region has a relatively well developed architecture for regional cooperation and integration on security issues. The annual meeting of the FRSC is the principal gathering for setting the regional security agenda and identifying priorities for enhancing the capacity of Members to respond to internal and external security threats. The annual meeting draws together representatives from Member countries, representatives of all the Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats such as Oceanic Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC), Pacific Islands Law Officers Network (PILONP) and Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), as well as representatives of other CROP agencies such as SPREP, SPC and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The FRSC traditionally meets in early June of each year and prepares recommendations for the annual Forum Officials Committee Meeting.

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<sup>20</sup>*Forum Leaders recognised the need in time of crisis or in response to members' request for assistance, for action to be taken on the basis of all members of the Forum being part of the Pacific Islands extended family."*

## VI. Focus Areas of the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

Global experience of developing National and Regional Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security has resulted in four core goals for advancing implementation of UNSCR 1325: i) **Prevention:** Prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations; ii) **Participation:** women participate equally with men and gender equality is promoted in peace and security decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels and; iii) **Protection:** Women's and girls' rights are protected and promoted in conflict-affected situations and; iv) **Relief and Recovery:** highlighting the need to meet women and girls specific relief needs and to ensure that women's capacities to act as agents in relief and recovery are reinforced in humanitarian crises and conflict and post-conflict situations.

This Regional Action Plan is broad-based to the extent that it focuses on conflict/post-conflict, transitional contexts and humanitarian settings. This is based on practice that humanitarian, peacebuilding and conflict prevention scenarios and responses are inter-linked. The RAP also focuses efforts on preventing conflict not just responding once violence erupts and governance systems are disrupted.

It is worth noting that there are significant efforts underway in the region to ensure women are protected from gender and sexual-based violence and that women and girl's relief and recovery needs are met following natural disasters and other humanitarian crises, and as such the focus in the Regional Action Plan on those areas is limited only to where added value is discernible from a women, peace and security perspective.

On the basis of consultations, existing commitments and activities in the above areas, the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for the Pacific will focus on three strategic pillars: i) gender mainstreaming and women's leadership in conflict prevention and management, political decision-making and peacebuilding and peacekeeping; ii) gender mainstreaming and women's participation in security sector oversight and accountability and; iii) protection of women's human rights in transitional and post-conflict contexts.

### ***Focus Area 1: Gender mainstreaming and women and young women's leadership in conflict prevention and management, political decision-making and peacebuilding and peacekeeping***

Since 1992, women have represented fewer than three percent of mediators and eight percent of negotiators to major peace processes, numbers that have not markedly improved since the passage of UNSCR 1325 in 2000. In other regions, it has been shown that when women are included as meaningful participants and given leadership roles, they enhance the scope of peace agreements to include broader societal and development priorities and needs, which are vital to ensuring lasting peace and security.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> See: United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, December 2011.

In the Pacific region, women and young women play an important role in brokering peace because they help to foster and maintain confidence and trust among the people and are able to address issues of concern to women and marginalized groups. Women and young women also have critical knowledge of impending instability and violence and actively report their concerns, despite at times threats to their personal security. Women and young women are active at the local level in terms of conflict prevention and management, mediation and dialogue, but it is not recognized and they do not receive enough support to participate in formal efforts at the regional or national level. This is compounded by the low level of women's political representation at all levels of political decision-making in the region. In this context, the focus area aims to achieve the following:

- Strengthened capacity and networking of women and young women leaders from government, civil society and private sector in mediation, dialogue, peace negotiations and constitutional reforms.
- Enhanced capacity of governments to adopt measures to increase women's representation at all levels of leadership and decision-making.
- More effective participation of women leaders in the context of the Biketawa Declaration and Good Office role of the Secretary-General of the Forum Secretariat.

Given the widespread involvement of Pacific Island Countries in the Regional Assistance Mission for Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and an increasing number of police, military and civilian personnel from the region participating in UN peacekeeping and peace support operations, the focus area aims to achieve the following:

- Women, Peace and Security commitments are reflected in participating country peacekeeping policies.

## ***Focus Area 2: Gender mainstreaming and women and young women's participation in security sector oversight and accountability<sup>22</sup>***

From 27 – 30 April 2009, UNDP and PIFS hosted a Regional Security Sector Governance Conference in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga. Pacific Island Countries identified the importance of gender mainstreaming in the security sector (military, police, correctional services, immigration and judiciary) and increased women's participation in regional and national security sector decision-making, oversight and accountability mechanisms.<sup>23</sup> Following that workshop the FRSC mandated PIFS and UNDP to support efforts in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands

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<sup>22</sup> See: PIFS (2012) *Guiding Principles on Security Sector Governance*. "Security services should recognise and be responsive to the different security needs of men and women and promote gender equality. A core principle is the recognition of the importance of gender equality in ensuring that women participate in all facets related to the governance of security institutions. Security sector activities must be gender sensitive in the delivery of its services and also develop processes and systems that recognise special safety and security needs of women such as the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. This principle is linked to the Pacific Plan."

<sup>23</sup> See: UNDP and PIFS Regional Security Sector Governance Co-Chair's Outcomes Statement: "Fundamentally, the protection of human rights must be recognized as underpinning collective and individual security efforts to ensure effective security governance. Noting that security is different for men, women, boys and girls, security needs to be provided in a gender responsive way, in accordance with international obligations and with due regard given to existing national gender priorities."

and Vanuatu to develop comprehensive national security policies. In this context, the focus area aims to achieve the following:

- Women, Peace and Security commitments and obligations incorporated in the development and implementation of national security, defence and justice policy.

The nature of security threats and the agenda of the FRSC over the last decade have changed significantly. For example at the 2011 meeting the FRSC discussed issues such as transnational organised crime; small arms and light weapons proliferation and arms trade treaty negotiations; unexploded ordinance; strategic law enforcement challenges in the context of police, customs, immigration, fisheries and maritime; criminal deportees; security sector governance; counter-terrorism; border security and management; conflict prevention and management of political crises; SGBV and; Women, Peace and Security. Given the expanded agenda of the FRSC and the Forum Secretariat and Regional Law Enforcement Secretariat's role in supporting the FRSC, the focus areas aims to achieve the following:

- Enhanced mainstreaming of Women, Peace and Security in the Forum Regional Security Committees priority setting and decision-making.
- Improved mainstreaming of Women, Peace and Security within the work of the Secretariat's Political, Governance and Security Programme and Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats.

### ***Focus Area 3: Protection of women's and girls' human rights during humanitarian crises and in transitional and post-conflict contexts***

At their 2009 meeting, Leaders' recognized sexual and gender-based violence was a risk to human security and a potential destabilizing factor for communities and societies alike; acknowledged that SGBV remained pervasive across the Pacific and; urged the recognition of its prevalence in the Pacific at all levels of community, whether in the domestic context or during natural disasters, conflict and post-conflict situations. Leaders' mandated the Secretariat and Forum members at the highest level, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to raise awareness of the seriousness of sexual and gender-based violence at its impact on the Pacific and; to establish firmly on the political agendas of Forum members the issue of SGBV. Leaders' also committed to eradicate SGBV and ensure all individuals have equal protection of the law and equal access to justice. Subsequently, in November 2010 a Pacific Islands Forum Reference Group to Address SGBV was established. Members include senior government officials from Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tonga; SPC, UN Women and Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. The RAP has been developed with significant inputs from members of SGBV Reference Group. The Regional Action Plan compliments the work of the SGBV Reference Group by focusing on achieving the following in the context of Women, Peace and Security:

- Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) policies ensure women and girls' access to health, psychosocial, legal and protection in times of humanitarian emergency and in reconstruction and rehabilitation after conflict and crisis.

The UN CEDAW Committee has begun the process of developing a general recommendation on women in conflict and post-conflict situations. The primary purpose of the General Recommendation is to provide guidance to State parties on the legislative, policy and other appropriate measures to ensure full compliance with their Convention obligations to protect, respect and fulfill women's human rights during times of armed conflict and in all peace-building processes, which includes the immediate aftermath of conflict and long term post-conflict reconstruction. In March 2012, the CEDAW Committee held an Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation to provide inputs on the development of the general recommendation. In this context, the focus area will aim to achieve the following:

- State parties are better able to meet their obligations to protect, respect and fulfill women's and girls' human rights during transitional, conflict and post-conflict situations.

## VII. Formulation of the Regional Action Plan

The development of the Regional Action Plan is the result of a collaborative process between CROP agencies, government representatives, civil society organisations and UN agencies.

Since the first ever Pacific Regional Workshop on Gender, Conflict, Peace and Security convened by Forum Secretariat in 2006, there have been significant consultations on Women, Peace and Security with government representatives, CROP and UN agencies and civil society. Those consultations and resulting outcomes documents, which identified priority activities, have informed the development of the Regional Action Plan.

More recently, in December 2010, as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of UN SCR 1325, the UN Resident Coordinator in Papua New Guinea, Deputy Director-General, Secretariat for Pacific Community (SPC) and Director, FemLINKPACIFIC, established a Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. The group was tasked to develop a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and to seek the FRSC's endorsement.

The members were selected based on existing work on Women, Peace and Security in the region. In recognition of the importance Leaders' place on encouraging national ownership of regional processes, the working group included senior officials from countries that are in the process or have developed National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325: *Women, Peace and Security*, including Solomon Islands, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea and Australia and those that are considering how to move forward in this area, such as New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, within the context of developing a National Security Policy. The group also includes UN Resident Coordinators in the region, members of the Asia-Pacific High Level Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security and members of PIF Reference Group on SGBV, the Forum Secretariat, and Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNFPA, UN Women, OHCHR, OCHA, ESCAP and UNICEF and civil society organizations. UNDP Pacific Centre provides the secretariat for the group.

During 2011, a mapping of current initiatives to ensure linkages and synergies and avoid duplication and situation analysis on Women, Peace and Security was conducted. These were used to guide the drafting of the Regional Action Plan.

To ensure high-level support, a paper was presented to 2011 Pacific Women's Ministers for advice and input. "Ministers received the report of the Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, and encouraged SPC to continue its support of this group as Co-Chair. They welcomed the preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and also encouraged development partners to support the development and implementation of the Regional Action Plan through financial resources."

At last year's PIF Leaders' meeting in Auckland, New Zealand a side event was organised on Women, Peace and Security, to brief senior officials and civil society representatives on the Regional Action Plan and they provided strategic guidance on developing the plan.

In 2012, a core group from the Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security was requested to form a smaller Technical Working Group responsible for drafting the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

In the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February 2012 in New York, briefings<sup>24</sup> were provided to meetings of the Forum UN Ambassadors and Pacific Small Island Developing States UN Ambassadors on the Regional Action Plan. In the region, in February 2012, SPC convened briefings with Pacific Ambassadors<sup>25</sup> that attend the FRSC on the Regional Action Plan and integrated their feedback. A draft Regional Action Plan was also presented at the PIFS-CSO dialogue on conflict, peace and security, held in May 2012.

As part of the 2012 Forum Regional Security Committee preparations, a draft Regional Action Plan was circulated to all Members of the Pacific Islands Forum, as well as Secretariat for the Pacific Community and all Members of the larger Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security for review and feedback. The comments received were integrated.

As per last year's FRSC recommendations, the Regional Action Plan was presented by Solomon Islands Government, Forum Secretariat, SPC, UN and FemLINKPACIFIC to the 2012 FRSC meeting for review. The FRSC received the Action Plan favourably and in its outcome statement "noted the work conducted by the Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security to develop the Regional Action Plan, and endorsed the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Further, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Forum Officials Committee that the Regional Action Plan be submitted for the attention of Leaders at the 2012 Leaders' meeting in Cook Islands. In furthering the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, the Committee agreed that Women, Peace and Security remain on the agenda of the Committee."

Subsequently, the Regional Action Plan was on the agenda of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in the Cook Islands in late August 2012. Here Leaders noted the Regional Action Plan thereby giving their support to it and directing the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat with partners to take the implementation of the plan forward. The plan will also be presented and discussed at the 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in 2013.

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<sup>24</sup> Present were representatives from Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, New Zealand (Chair), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

<sup>25</sup> Present were representatives from Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

## VIII. Implementation of the Regional Action Plan

With the adoption of the Regional Action Plan, it is recommended that a PIF Reference Group on Women, Peace and Security be established. The Reference Group will be made up of CROP agencies, government representatives from interested Pacific Island Countries and Territories, civil society stakeholders and UN agencies. The group will provide an enabling environment at the regional level to support implementation of the Regional Action Plan; pooling technical assistance, capacity development support and financial resources to support regional and national efforts, upon request; collect and disseminate information on Women, Peace and Security and; support existing monitoring and reporting efforts on international, regional and national commitments.

The Regional Action Plan will be launched in target Pacific Island Countries and Territories to sensitise officials and civil society and seek commitment for its implementation and to ensure the RAP is integrated into national plans and strategic security and development frameworks.

Furthermore, now that the Regional Action Plan has been adopted a budget will be developed and presented at a regional donor roundtable to discuss financial resources available from development partners and Pacific Island Countries to support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and national efforts on Women, Peace and Security.

The Reference group and its members will translate and disseminate the Regional Action Plan widely to increase public awareness and knowledge on Women, Peace and Security. Furthermore, a biennial regional conference on Women, Peace and Security will be organised. Support will also be provided to University of South Pacific (USP) and other tertiary centres to organise public lectures and seminar series at their campuses on Women, Peace and Security and articles will be provided for Pacific journals.

It is expected that the Regional Action Plan will be reviewed in 2015 to assess progress, impacts, challenges and lessons learned and decide on the future direction of the work on Women, Peace and Security in the region. This will be in line with discussions that will take place in 2015 on the revised Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Pacific Plan and post-MDG framework and 15 year review of UN Security Council Resolution 1325: *Women, Peace and Security*.

## Regional Action Plan Matrix (September 2012 – 2015)<sup>26</sup>

Expected Results	Priority Actions	Responsible Agencies	Indicators	Time-Frame
<b>Focus Area 1: Gender mainstreaming and women and young women’s leadership in conflict prevention and management, political decision-making, peacebuilding and peacekeeping</b>				
<i>1.1 Strengthened capacity and networking of women leaders from government, civil society and private sector in mediation, dialogue and peace negotiations.</i>	a) Train Pacific women and young women leaders at the regional level in mediation, peace negotiations, political dialogue and Constitutional reform and support networking and south-south / north-south collaboration.	PIFS( <b>lead</b> )  UNDP, OHCHR & UN Women( <b>support</b> )	1. No of women trained. 2. Twelve months following on report documenting specific incidences of mediation, peace negotiations, political dialogue and constitutional reform that have been impacted by the women trained. 3. Experiences shared and knowledge transferred from other regions in training workshops.	2013 - 2015
	b) Using various media and regional policy dialogues, document and profile Pacific women and young women’s experiences of preventing conflict, ensuring security and promoting peace, including multi-track processes and back channel talks.	SPC ( <b>lead</b> )  FemLINKPACIFIC, OHCHR & UN Women( <b>support</b> )	1. Number of experiences documented and disseminated through media outlets 2. Number of experiences documented and disseminated in regional policy dialogues	2013 - 2015
	c) On request, provide assistance to Member States to develop and implement National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, including sharing knowledge and experiences from other regions and facilitating south-south / north-south collaboration.	PIFS( <b>lead</b> )  UNDP, UN Women, OHCHR & UNFPA ( <b>support</b> )	1. Number of NAPs being developed and requesting assistance. 2. Number of NAPs funded and/or implemented. 3. Degree to which RAP is integrated into NAPs and other national plans and strategic	2012 – 2015

<sup>26</sup> The supporting agencies in the matrix are indicative and further inputs are welcome from interested agencies.

			security and development frameworks. 4. Experiences shared from other regions with developing RAPs and NAPs on WPS.	
<i>1.2 Enhanced capacity of governments to adopt measures to increase women's representation and participation at all levels of leadership and decision-making</i>	a) Existing knowledge building and advocacy efforts supported to increase women's political representation in the region, in particular in post-conflict and transition countries	PIFS & SPC( <b>lead</b> )  UNDP, OHCHR & UNWomen( <b>support</b> )	1. Number of new measures introduced in support of women representation and participation	2012 – 2015
<i>1.3 More effective participation of women leaders in the context of the Biketawa Declaration and Good Offices role of the Secretary-General of the Forum Secretariat.</i>	a) Capacity strengthened within PIFS Political, Governance and Security (PGS) Programme in order to mainstream Women, Peace and Security in the context of the Biketawa Declaration and Good Offices role of the Secretary-General of the Forum Secretariat	PIFS ( <b>lead</b> )  UNDP & UN Women( <b>support</b> )	1. Percentage change in No. of activities and reports of PGS programme include WPS analysis. 2. Appointment of a gender adviser to the PGS programme. 3. Conflict prevention adviser incorporates WPS into work programme.	2013 - 2014
	b) Database of experienced Pacific women peacemakers developed for: a) appointment of senior gender advisor, special envoy or special representative in UN missions; b) appointment to eminent persons group and; c) to be used by PIFS Secretary-General as part of the Good Offices functions, in line with Biketawa Declaration	PIFS & SPC( <b>lead</b> )  UNWomen( <b>support</b> )	1. No. of women appointed to PIF Eminent Persons Group. 2. No. of women used by PIFS SG in Good Office Role. 3. No. of Pacific women appointed to senior levels of UN missions.	2013
	c) Annual consultation on Women, Peace and Security institutionalized between PIFS and SPC Executive and UN Resident Coordinators with women's groups, including young women and gender equality advocates.	PIFS & SPC ( <b>lead</b> )  WPS Reference Group( <b>support</b> )	1. Degree to which recommendations from consultations feed into FRSC proceedings.	2012 – 2015
<i>1.4 Women, Peace and Security commitments incorporated in participating country</i>	a) Information adapted and shared with Members to ensure implementation of Women, Peace and Security commitments in any future regional and international peacekeeping missions, including training for pre and	PIFS ( <b>lead</b> )  WPS Reference Group( <b>support</b> )	1. Level of knowledge of security personnel on WPS. 2. Degree to which WPS is mainstreamed in peacekeeping	2013

<i>peacekeeping policies.</i>	post-deployment of police and military personnel.		policies.	
	b) Regional-level research undertaken, including exit surveys of returning female peacekeepers and police personnel, on factors affecting the working environment of women in PKOs (incl. RAMSI) and implementation of WPS commitments in theatre/combat.	PIFS ( <b>lead</b> ) WPS Reference Group ( <b>support</b> )	1. Number of exit surveys conducted with male and female peacekeepers on factors affecting the working environment of women. 2. Degree to which WPS commitments are implemented in theatre/combat (based on exit surveys)	2014 - 2015
<b>Focus Area 2: Gender mainstreaming and women and young women's participation in security sector oversight and accountability</b>				
<i>2.1 Enhanced mainstreaming of Women, Peace and Security in the Forum Regional Security Committees priority setting and decision-making.</i>	a) Papers prepared and considered as part of the standing agenda item of the FRSC on Women, Peace and Security.	PIFS( <b>lead</b> ) With inputs from the WPS Reference Group( <b>support</b> )	1. No. of papers presented yearly which include WPS analysis. 2. No. of recommendations endorsed by FRSC related to WPS.	2012 – 2015
	b) Regular engagement between women's groups, including young women, leaders and gender equality advocates with PIFS, FRSC Official and CSO on Women, Peace and Security (as part of twice a year PIFS – CSO dialogue)	PIFS( <b>lead</b> )	1. Number of consultations involving participation of senior PIFS and FRSC officials, and leadership of regional women's CSOs 2. Number of WPS issues discussed integrated into FRSC agenda.	2012 – 2015
	c) Training provided to FRSC officials on gender mainstreaming in the context of the security agenda of the FRSC.	PIFS( <b>lead</b> ) WPS Reference Group( <b>support</b> )	1. No. of times that WPS considered in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes as part of the FRSC agenda.	2013 - 2014
<i>2.2 Improved mainstreaming of Women, Peace and Security within the work of the Forum Secretariat's Political, Security and Governance</i>	a) Assistance provided to PIFS PGS Programme to ensure a gender and security analysis is incorporated into the annual Transnational Crime Assessment (TNC) and consultations with women's groups are supported.	PIFS( <b>lead</b> ) WPS Reference Group( <b>support</b> )	1. Degree to which women groups are involved in planning the TNC assessment. 2. Degree of WPS analysis incorporated into TNC. 3. Degree of WPS analysis that	2013 - 2014

<i>Programme, and Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats.</i>			leads to key recommendations in conclusion of TNC assessment.	
	b) Assistance provided to PIFS PGS programme to ensure a gender and security analysis is incorporated into small arms and light weapons, arms trade treaty and counter-terrorism programmes and consultations with women's groups are supported.	PIFS ( <b>lead</b> ) WPS Reference Group ( <b>support</b> )	1. Degree to which women groups are involved in planning PGS work programme 2. Degree of WPS analysis incorporated into PGS work programme	2013 - 2014
	c) Assistance provided to Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats to ensure a gender and security analysis is incorporated into their work and consultations with women's groups are supported.	PIFS( <b>lead</b> ) WPS Reference Group( <b>support</b> )	1. Degree to which women groups are involved in planning Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats work programme 2. Whether WPS analysis is incorporated into Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats work programme	2013 - 2014
<i>2.3 Women, Peace and Security commitments and obligations incorporated in the development and implementation of security, defence, and justice policies.</i>	a) Assistance provided on request to Forum member countries to review existing national security and justice policies and those that are being formulated, to incorporate Women, Peace and Security commitments	PIFS & UNDP( <b>lead</b> ) UNWomen( <b>support</b> )	1. Degree to which WPS commitments incorporated in national security, defence and justice policies. 2. Percentage of WPS recommendations provided that are incorporated in final drafts of national security, defence and justice policies.	2013 - 2015
	b) Advice provided to Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats to develop policy guidance on increasing the number of women at all levels of security institutions and incorporation of women into selection panels	PIFS & SPC( <b>lead</b> ) WPS Reference Group( <b>support</b> )	1. No. of policy documents or directives that support increasing numbers of women at all levels of security institutions. 2. Percentage change of women employed at all levels of security institutions.	2013

**Focus Area 3: Protection of women's and girl's human rights during humanitarian crises and in transitional and post-conflict contexts**

3.1. State parties are better able to meet their obligations to protect, respect and fulfill women's human rights during conflict and post-conflict situations	a) Regional advice on request provided to State parties on its CEDAW reporting in the context of Women, Peace and Security.	PIFS, SPC, OHCHR & UNWomen(lead)  UNFPA (support)	1. Number of State parties reporting on Women, Peace and Security.	2012 - 2013
3.2 EAW policies & Humanitarian response plans ensure women and girls' access to health, psychosocial, legal and protection in times of humanitarian emergency and in reconstruction and rehabilitation after conflict and crisis.	a) Advice and guidance provided to ensure national EAW policy frameworks include provisions on women and girls' protection in humanitarian crises and post-conflict situations.	SPC (lead)  UNFPA & UN Women (support)	1. No. of provisions in EAW policies & response plans to protect women and girls in humanitarian crises and post-conflict situations.	2013 - 2015
	b) Rigorous capacity standards set and comprehensive database developed to ensure preparedness and effectiveness of all EAW practitioners and organisations of Governments and NGOs in humanitarian response.	SPC (lead)  UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP (support)	1. Number of EAW practitioners and organisations that have completed "Gender in Humanitarian response" training and have incorporated humanitarian response in their mandate.	2013 - 2015
<b>Targeted Technical Support and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework</b>				
<i>Leaders' established PIF Reference Group on Women, Peace and Security</i>	a) Technical missions undertaken on request of Forum member countries to provide advice on Women, Peace and Security and identify priorities and gaps, which the Reference Group or agencies represented could address.	PIFS & SPC (lead)  WPS Reference Group (support)	1. Number of missions undertaken on request of Forum member countries. 2. Number of Reference Group recommendations agreed by governments.	2012 – 2015
	b) Active cooperation and alignment of support to PICS between the proposed Reference Group on Women, Peace and Security and existing SGBV Reference Group, including meeting at least once a year and more as required.	PIFS (lead)  SGBV Reference Group & WPS Reference Group (support)	1. Aligned plans and activities of WPS and SGBV Reference Groups	2012 – 2015
	c) Women, Peace and Security Reference Group	PIFS (lead)	1. WPS issues of relevance	2012 –

	meets annually and more as required (including virtually)		discussed through the WPS Reference Group	2015
<i>Annual report prepared</i>	a) Annual report provided to PIF Leaders' if required, PIFS and SPC Executive, FRSC, Pacific Women's Ministers and Senior Officials and to Pacific UN Ambassadors for discussion at the UN Security Council Open Debate.	PIFS ( <b>lead</b> ) WPS Reference Group ( <b>support</b> )	1. WPS issues presented and discussed for various audiences and fora	2012 – 2015

## **Annex 1: Draft Outline of Terms of Reference for a Pacific Islands Forum Reference Group on Women, Peace and Security**

### **PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM**

#### **REFERENCE GROUP ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

##### **Terms of Reference**

*Date*

##### **Background**

- Existence as Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.
- FRSC discussions on RAP, welcoming of the establishment of the RWG and mandate to develop the RAP.
- Formulation of the Forum Reference Group on Women, Peace and Security – FRSC 2010, 2011 and 2012 and Leaders endorsement of RAP and establishment of Reference Group.

##### **Functions**

- 1) Support governments, regional organisations and multilateral bodies to uphold women's rights and support their participation in all aspects of conflict prevention and management, peace negotiations, mediation, security decision-making and post-conflict reconstruction in the context of international, regional and national commitments.
- 2) To oversee and monitor implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.
- 3) To contribute to the building of knowledge and evidence to inform policy, legislation and national programmes.
- 4) To raise awareness at the regional and national level on Women, Peace and Security and advocate to Pacific Island Countries to integrate the RAP into national plans and strategic development frameworks.
- 5) To discuss and monitor new activities and policies resulting from the work of the Reference Group and the agencies they represent.
- 6) To promote greater accountability amongst Pacific Island Countries and Territories and within Forum processes to international and regional commitments on Women, Peace and Security.
- 7) To mobilise resources (both financial and technical) to support regional and national efforts.
- 8) To liaise regularly with the Forum Reference Group to Address Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

##### **Modalities**

- 1) The group is comprised of a senior representative from three Forum member governments, a CROP agency, the United Nations and regional civil society.
- 2) Be chaired ex-officio by the Forum Secretariat.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> As is the practice for the PIF Reference Group on Sexual and Gender-based Violence, in its capacity as "ex-officio" Chair of the Reference Group on Women, Peace and Security, the Secretariat is not a member, but simply a facilitator of proceedings. This will ensure the independence of the Reference Group, as a panel of experts requested to guide the Forum's implementation of Leaders' decisions pertaining to women, peace and security.

- 3) Endorse a progress report prepared by the Secretariat for the consideration of the annual Forum Regional Security Committee meeting (and the Forum Leaders' meeting if necessary).
- 4) Meet annually and more as required (including virtually).
- 5) Meet with the Forum Reference Group to Address Sexual and Gender Based Violence at least once a year and more as required.
- 6) On request, undertake missions to Pacific Island Countries and Territories to advice on Women, Peace and Security and identify priorities and gaps, which the Reference Group or agencies represented could address.
- 7) Secretariat functions provided by Political, Governance and Security Programme of PIFS.

The Political, Governance and Security Programme of the Forum Secretariat, will also endeavor to secure as much funding as possible to undertake the recommendations of the Reference Group, ensure the Group is kept informed of relevant developments that pertain to the Groups mandate and relevant reports are presented to the Reference Group on donor support (so the Group can appropriately advise). The United Nations also commits to support resource mobilization efforts of the Group.