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Solomon Islands

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations¹

<i>Universal human rights treaties²</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>	<i>Declarations/reservations</i>	<i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i>
ICERD	17 March 1982	None	Individual complaints (art. 14): No
ICESCR	17 March 1982	Yes, arts. 7 (a) (i), 10 (1), 13 (2) (a) and 14	–
CEDAW	6 May 2002	None	–
OP-CEDAW	6 May 2002	None	Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): Yes
CRC	10 April 1995	None	–

Treaties to which Solomon Islands is not a party: OP-ICESCR³ (signature only, 2009), ICCPR, ICCPR-OP 1, ICCPR-OP 2, CAT, OP-CAT, OP-CRC-AC (signature only, 2009), OP-CRC-SC (signature only, 2009), ICRMW, CRPD (signature only, 2008), CRPD-OP (signature only, 2009), and CED.

<i>Other main relevant international instruments</i>	<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	No
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	No
Palermo Protocol ⁴	No
Refugees and stateless persons ⁵	Yes, except the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁶	Yes, except Additional Protocol III
ILO fundamental conventions ⁷	Convention No. 29
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	Yes

1. In 2003, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) encouraged Solomon Islands to ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the involvement of children in armed conflict.⁸

2. In 2002, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) recommended that Solomon Islands consider ratifying the main International Labour Organization Conventions relating to economic, social and cultural rights, such as Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise , Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively and Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.⁹

3. In 2010, UNHCR recommended that Solomon Islands accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Accession to the Statelessness Conventions would establish a framework to prevent and reduce statelessness, in order to avoid the detrimental effects that this can have on individuals and society, and ensure minimum standards of treatment of stateless persons, providing such persons with stability and security, and ensuring that certain basic rights and needs are met.¹⁰

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

4. In 2010, UNICEF reported that the Constitution of Solomon Islands did not enable automatic enforcement upon ratification of treaties.¹¹

5. In 2009, UNDP stated that the Parliament had made important strides towards gender equality in its law by changing four legal practices in the Evidence Act 2009. The changes removed major obstacles to successfully prosecuting offenders in sexual assault cases.¹²

6. UNICEF noted that there were difficulties in the protection of children's rights due to existing gaps in legislation.¹³ It added that the National Advisory Committee on Children (NACC) comprising Government and stakeholders had become the central focal point for dealing with children's issues. Two approaches had been taken by the NACC in undertaking legislative reform: (a) the development a child rights bill and child protection bill; (b) the review of laws to ensure their compatibility with CRC. The NACC is currently reviewing whether to pursue one or both approaches given their advantages and disadvantages.¹⁴ UNICEF assisted in the carrying out of legal reform, drafting of new laws and amending existing ones. Children and young people are consulted in these processes.¹⁵

7. CRC was concerned at the many inconsistencies in the minimum ages applicable to various areas of the law of Solomon Islands , and noted, in particular, that: the minimum age of criminal responsibility was too low (8 years); the age of marriage was too low (15 years), especially since no birth certificate or any other official document was required for marriage; the minimum age for employment was too low (12 years); and, as education was not compulsory, ages for admission to, and completion of primary education had not been set.¹⁶ It recommended that Solomon Islands raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to internationally accepted standards and ensure that juvenile justice protection is accorded to all children up to the age of 18; raise the age of marriage and require official documentation to be presented for official matters; raise the minimum age for employment; and set ages for admission to, and completion of compulsory primary education.¹⁷

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

8. At the end of December 2010, Solomon Islands did not have a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC).¹⁸

D. Policy measures

9. In 2010, UNDP stated that in order to make it possible for Solomon Islands to attain the Millennium Development Goals, it was crucial that the goals were integrated into local development plans. The provincial governments needed to play strong roles in implementing measures that could enable the country to meet the MDGs. UNDP added that a continued effort to strengthen the provincial governments and their services was fundamental, as the provincial governments were providers of key services needed to attain the MDGs at the provincial level.¹⁹

10. UNICEF drew attention to the National Policy on Children 2010-2015, developed by the Solomon Islands National Advisory Committee for Children and the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs; the National Youth Policy 2010-2015, developed by the Youth Development Division of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs and the National Gender Equality Policy, developed by the Women's Development Division of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs. All of these have been endorsed by the Cabinet.²⁰

II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<i>Treaty body²¹</i>	<i>Latest report submitted and considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	1983	July 1983		Second to thirteenth reports overdue from 1985 to 2007 respectively
CESCR	2001	Nov. 2002		Second report overdue since 2005
CEDAW				Initial report overdue since 2003
CRC	2001	June 2003		Combined second and third reports overdue since 2007

11. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) regretted that Solomon Islands had not submitted a report since 1983. The failure of a State to meet reporting obligations creates serious obstacles to the effective functioning of the Convention's monitoring system.²²

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<i>Standing invitation issued</i>	No
<i>Latest visits or mission reports</i>	Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt on the enjoyment of human rights (14-18 February 2011)
<i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i>	
<i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i>	
<i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i>	
<i>Follow-up to visits</i>	
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, one communication was sent, to which the Government replied.
<i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues</i>	Solomon Islands did not respond to any of the 26 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders. ²³

3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

12. The first OHCHR presence in the Pacific dates back to August 2001. The initial project was aimed at supporting the peace process in Solomon Islands in the wake of civil unrest in the country (1999–October 2000). A further project to strengthen the national human rights institutional capacities was fielded in 2003 for a period of one year. In August 2005 the OHCHR established a regional office in Suva, Fiji. In August 2006, a sub-office was opened in Honiara, Solomon Islands.²⁴ OHCHR'S work in Solomon Islands has focused on the rule of law and constitutional reform, a truth and reconciliation process, human rights capacity-building for civil society, public information campaigns and educational activities.²⁵ The Solomon Islands liaison office was closed in 2007.²⁶ Since then, OHCHR's Pacific regional office in Suva has continued to provide advice on and support to the reconciliation process.²⁷

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

13. UNICEF noted that throughout Solomon Islands women were generally regarded as having a lower status than men and had little say in family decision-making and that despite the importance of women's economic contribution, there was still a tendency for families to prioritize sending boys to school before girls.²⁸

14. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported that girls were regarded as a valuable resource to be traded as brides among groups of men in exchange for payments, which included cash. These traditions persisted in Solomon Islands in spite of significant socio-cultural changes in other areas of life. The custom of payment of bride price in Solomon Islands reflected the recognition of the social and economic value of women; however, women who had married under custom had difficulties obtaining a share of matrimonial property and custody of children.²⁹

15. In 2003, CRC was concerned that there continued to be widespread discrimination against women and girls, and that girls were underrepresented in schools. It was also

concerned that the principle of non-discrimination was not adequately implemented for children of some ethnic minorities and economically disadvantaged households, and that children living in remote islands, children born out of wedlock and children with disabilities, also experienced discrimination especially with regard to their access to adequate health care and educational facilities.³⁰

16. UNICEF reported that the so called “Tensions” of the late 1990’s and early 2000’s had grown out of the imbalance between Malaitans and Gwale on what was traditionally Gwale land. An urbanization study conducted by UNICEF Pacific (2010) showed that residual tensions remained within Honiara, the capital, and were only kept in check by the presence of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).³¹

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

17. UNICEF referred to the fact that there were gangs in many settlement areas made up of disaffected ‘ex-combatants’ from the Tensions. This large group ranged in age from mid-teens to early thirties and many of them had been ‘child soldiers’. The Peace and Reconciliation process may provide an opportunity for some of the tension relating to this unresolved situation to be relieved.³²

18. In 2010, UNICEF reported that domestic violence was widespread in Solomon Islands, with both women and children at risk of physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Violence and abuse of children are associated with poverty to some extent, but are endemic practices that exist simply because they are not prevented.³³

19. CESCR was alarmed, in 2002, at the high incidence of domestic violence against women and children in Solomon Islands.³⁴ It urged Solomon Islands to adopt and implement effective measures to protect women and children from domestic violence.³⁵

20. CRC was concerned that the problem of abuse, including sexual abuse, within the family and in institutions appeared to be significant; very few cases of physical and sexual abuse were effectively pursued by the police or brought to court; reporting was not mandatory and there were no procedures or facilities for protecting abused children or meeting their needs.³⁶ It recommended that Solomon Islands launch a comprehensive study on the prevalence of abuse, including sexual abuse, aimed at informing policy and law makers, including through cooperation with international NGOs.³⁷

21. UNICEF added that 37 per cent of women reported having been abused when they were under the age of 15, and that the overall rate of abuse is higher in urban areas.³⁸

22. CRC, in 2003, was very concerned that children of both sexes were exposed to prostitution due to economic difficulties; there was a lack of guidance on the role of police intervention in this field, as well as an absence of institutions dedicated to the rehabilitation of child victims and that there was very little data on the number of children being exploited.³⁹ It recommended that Solomon Islands undertake a study on the sexual exploitation of children and adopt a national plan of action against sexual exploitation of children.⁴⁰

23. UNICEF noted that there were cases of child labour, particularly among girls, in Buala in Isabel Province and that 9.4 per cent of girls (under 16 years) in urban settlement in Honiara were reported to be looking for work. Communities surveyed also reported an increase in Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC) due to increased difficulty in meeting daily expenditures.⁴¹

24. CRC was concerned that many children under 15 were working, often in very poor conditions and for long hours, preventing them from attending school.⁴² It recommended that Solomon Islands make greater efforts to reduce the number of children working in the formal and informal sectors; to ensure that those children who do work do so in accordance

with international standards and continue to have access to formal education and to ratify ILO Conventions No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and No. 182 concerning the Prohibitions and Immediate Actions for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.⁴³

25. In 2010, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations recalled its previous observation that section 6 of the Constitution of Solomon Islands provided protection from slavery and forced labour (paras (1) and (2)) but laid down exclusions from the expression “forced labour” (para. (3)). The Committee of Experts requested Solomon Islands to supply information on any circumstances in which labour might be exacted.⁴⁴

26. CRC was concerned that corporal punishment was widely practised in the family, schools and other institutions, such as prisons and in alternative care contexts, that there was insufficient knowledge about ill-treatment of children, including on the part of State agents and that acts of violations against the mother and/or other members of the family frequently took place in the presence of children.⁴⁵ It recommended that Solomon Islands take all legislative and other measures to prohibit all forms of physical and mental violence, including corporal punishment, against children in the family, schools, and in all other contexts and conduct a study to assess the nature and extent of ill-treatment of children.⁴⁶

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

27. UNDP stated that Solomon Islands took a significant step towards healing and moving beyond the traumas of the “Tensions” by establishing the first Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the Pacific. The Commission, which began its work on January 2010,⁴⁷ focuses on human rights and ensures that healing would take place for victims and perpetrators so as to prevent a recurrence of conflict.⁴⁸

28. UNICEF reported that the widespread domestic violence which placed both women and children at risk in Solomon Islands was sustained by lack of law enforcement.⁴⁹

29. UNICEF noted the development of a multi-year plans “Communication for Social Change Plans” guiding the capacity-building for the judiciary and police in Solomon Islands.⁵⁰

4. Right to marriage and family life

30. ESCAP reported that the practice of early marriage or children being traded according to the wishes of parents and extended families continued.⁵¹ Furthermore, customary marriages were recognized in Solomon Islands and such marriages were not subject to the statutory age requirements and other protections in relation to marriage.⁵²

31. ESCAP stated that, as regards marriage of minors, the consent of fathers was prioritized, which reinforced the stereotype of the father as the head of the household, and denied women equal rights and responsibilities with those of men, as required by article 16 of CEDAW.⁵³

32. CRC was concerned that society at large was not aware of the importance of birth registration and that registration was not integrally linked to the health system; as a result many children, particularly those born in remote islands were not registered at birth.⁵⁴ It recommended that Solomon Islands take measures to ensure that all children are registered at birth and make every effort to register older children who were not registered at birth.⁵⁵

5. Right to participate in public and political life

33. A 2010 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that none of the total of 50 seats in the national parliament had been held by women since 2001.⁵⁶

34 CESCR was concerned about the inadequate representation of women at all levels of decision-making bodies of Solomon Islands and the persistence of patriarchal attitudes in the society.⁵⁷

6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

35. UNICEF noted that there were few waged employment opportunities; that young people who had already left school but had no work experience were severely disadvantaged and that women were more likely to be unable to find paid work.⁵⁸

36. UNICEF noted the National Provident Fund (NPF) only covered workers in the formal employment sector, and as the majority of workers in the formal employment sector were men, this meant there was a large gender disparity in who had access to NPFs. Only 10 per cent of the workforce in formal employment was covered by maternity benefits and only 23 per cent had retirement benefits.⁵⁹

7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

37. CESCR considered that the economic recession, exacerbated by a high rate of generalized poverty and a subsistence economy, as well as social tension and political instability, had impeded the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Covenant.⁶⁰

38. UNICEF remarked that 22,220 people in Honiara, out of whom 8,166 children under 15 years were unable to afford the basic minimum standard of living. In the rural areas, it is estimated that the 83,000 people of whom 31,734 children were unable to afford the basic minimum standard of living. Additionally around 18,500 people of the rural population, including 8,070 children, and 3,885 people in Honiara, including 1450 children, lived just above the basic poverty line and their expenditure was no more than 10 per cent above the rural and Honiara BNPL respectively. Poverty was deepest and most severe in Honiara, followed by rural areas.⁶¹

39. UNICEF reported that Solomon Islands had many ‘islands’ of peri-urbanization surrounding logging camps. Although these camps were not permanent, the communities that gathered around them exhibited many of the same negative social aspects associated with the settlement areas around Honiara. Because of their remoteness these areas did not have the limited access to the services of squatters in Honiara.⁶²

40. UNICEF added that there was a vast difference between Honiara and every other place in terms of services, facilities and communications and that those in remote places in the interior or on isolated stretches of coast had almost no facilities and communications.⁶³

41. CESCR was concerned, in 2002, that malnutrition, especially among young people, was widespread, despite the fact that food supplies are available in almost sufficient quantities in all parts of the country.⁶⁴

42. In 2010, UNDP indicated that the regional database showed that the prevalence in Solomon Islands of underweight children under five years had dropped sharply from 23 per cent in 1990 to 11.8 per cent in 2007. This was very close to reaching one of the targets under MDG 1. MDG 5 aimed to reduce maternal mortality which had been reduced from 550 deaths per 100,000 births in 1990 to 96 deaths per 100,000 births in 2008.⁶⁵

43. UNICEF noted the cost of food in the urban areas (markets and stores) had increased. Although the world food crisis and the global economic crisis may have contributed to food price rises, most sources of information claimed that the rises were a direct result of the distorting effect on prices brought about as a result of the RAMSI intervention.⁶⁶

44. UNICEF Pacific has supported the activities of the Government to map out where populations were most at risk of HIV infection, and understand factors which increase their risks and vulnerability to HIV.⁶⁷

45. CRC was concerned that adolescents did not have appropriate access to information and services relating to adolescent health in general and reproductive health in particular; adolescents remained extremely vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and that girls were not protected from the risk of pregnancy, and that tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse were widespread among young people.⁶⁸

46. UNICEF noted there were an unknown number of homeless children and young people living on the streets of Honiara. As these children had no regular parental care and there was no source of State care, their only source of assistance was church organizations and NGOs, which were generally seriously under-funded.⁶⁹ Most children, however, received no support.⁷⁰

47. In 2010, UNDP stated that deforestation and land degradation threatened the achievement of MDG 7 in Solomon Islands. In 1990, 98.9 per cent of the country was covered by forests. By 2005, this was 77.6 per cent, according to Pacinfo, the regional database that provides MDG's data on 15 Pacific Island Countries. UNDP recognized that logging and timber exports created job opportunities and revenue and that while sustainable logging might be encouraged, it was important to halt unsustainable logging, as it posed a major threat to the environment.⁷¹

8. Right to education

48. In 2010, UNDP stated that, according to the latest statistics from the regional database, 94 per cent of all children in Solomon Islands attended primary school, meaning that the MDG on universal primary education was within reach. The ratio of boys to girls in primary education had also evened out – a huge improvement from the situation in 1990. In secondary school, girls were still underrepresented. It was also vital to ensure that children would have the quality of teaching necessary to succeed in further studies and work.⁷² While noting the considerable efforts made by Solomon Islands to reduce illiteracy, CESCR remained concerned in 2002 that illiteracy, especially among women, posed a grave problem.⁷³

49. UNICEF acknowledged that school fees at primary level had been abolished from 2010. However, many children, particularly those from vulnerable households, remained at home or did not attend regularly as schooling was unaffordable due to other school levies and other essential expenses including uniforms, books, and transportation. Sentinel site monitoring reported that about the half of children who were surveyed did not attend school full-time for the last term during 2009/2010. Girls were reported to miss school during that time more often than in 2009.⁷⁴

50. ESCAP stated that relatively large numbers of children, especially girls, did not go to school at all because there were too few schools.⁷⁵ In 2009, UNICEF stated that, in Solomon Islands, fewer girls were going to secondary education than boys.⁷⁶

51. In 2003, CRC was concerned that there were wide disparities among the islands in terms of the quality of education and its coverage; and that the enrolment of girls remained very low.⁷⁷

9. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

52. UNHCR reported that in view of the small number of individual cases and more pressing domestic issues, issues relating to asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons were not prominent concerns in Solomon Islands.⁷⁸

53. UNHCR encouraged the Government to pursue its commitment to establish a national legal framework and a mechanism that enables the appropriate engagement of relevant international organizations such as UNHCR and IOM with Solomon Islands.⁷⁹

54. UNHCR welcomed the efforts of the Government of Solomon Islands to implement its international refugee obligations domestically through the draft Refugee Status Determinations Bill 2010, and accompanying Regulations. UNHCR appreciated the consultations in respect of Solomon Islands' draft immigration (including refugee) policy, draft refugee legislation, the overall immigration system and the role of human rights in border management.⁸⁰

55. UNHCR welcomed Solomon Islands' participation in the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), the Intergovernmental Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC). UNHCR also acknowledged its engagement at all levels of Government, to raise awareness and develop momentum towards the formulation of its refugee policy and legislation.⁸¹

56. UNHCR noted that while people displaced because of climatic (natural) factors were not 'refugees' under the 1951 Convention, there were nonetheless clear links between environmental degradation or climate change, and social tensions and conflict. Experience in other Pacific Island Countries has demonstrated that displacement can lead to competition with a host community and lead to conflict, often over land or the use of limited resources (e.g. potable water). In the worst case scenario, involving complete submersion under rising sea levels, widespread 'external displacement' and a de facto or de jure loss of the sovereign State itself may result.⁸²

57. UNHCR and OHCHR co-lead the recently established IASC Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster (PHPC) to support States and United Nations Country Teams in other types of displacement –like displacement because climatic factors- and, in consultation with UNOCHA and Resident Coordinators, have deployed a protection officer to map and analyse key protection concerns and needs in disaster preparedness and response in the region. The PHPC has also established a standby Pacific Emergency Team (PET).⁸³

III. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

58. CRC recognized the serious difficulties facing Solomon Islands, namely the civil strife, severe economic constraints, including poverty and unemployment, vulnerability to natural disasters, and the fact that the country was made up of many islands, some very remote, and that its people spoke at least 87 local languages and dialects.⁸⁴

59. UNHCR recognized that climate change posed a unique set of challenges for many Pacific Island Countries, including Solomon Islands, as it resulted in to rising sea levels, salinization, the incidence of storms of increasing frequency and severity, and increasing climate variability. The populations of a number of small islands in Solomon Islands were facing imminent relocation.⁸⁵

60. In 2010, UNDP stated that heavy rains in Solomon Islands in early 2009 had caused widespread floods and landslides in Guadalcanal, Malaita, the Central Province and Makira and that many lives were lost, livelihoods destroyed and property and infrastructure had suffered extensive damage.⁸⁶

61. In 2010, UNDP stated that lack of reliable data on several MDGs was another challenge for Solomon Islands and hoped that facilitating and implementing proper methods for gathering of vital data on the MDG progress would be an urgent and high priority.⁸⁷

IV. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

N/A

V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

62. CRC recommended that Solomon Islands: seek technical assistance from United Nations agencies, including WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, with regard to adolescent health;⁸⁸ and seek international cooperation from, among others, UNICEF, ILO and WHO, regarding children exposed to prostitution.⁸⁹

63. CESCR recommended that Solomon Islands avail itself of technical assistance from the relevant United Nations specialized agencies in the preparation and presentation of its next report, as well as in the implementation of the concluding observations.⁹⁰

64. UNHCR also encouraged Solomon Islands to develop a rights-based disaster management and mitigation plan, within the regional and United Nations mechanisms.⁹¹

65. UNICEF reported that the finalization of a language in education policy echoed the importance of mother tongue instruction for the younger grades.⁹²

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 1 April 2009* (ST/LEG/SER.E/26), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>.

² The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
CED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

³ Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/117 of 10 December 2008. Article 17, paragraph 1, of OP-ICESCR states that “The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenant”.

⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

- ⁵ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- ⁶ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.
- ⁷ International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- ⁸ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.208), para. 60.
- ⁹ Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1/Add.84), para. 21.
- ¹⁰ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, p. 3.
- ¹¹ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 1.
- ¹² UNDP, Pacific Centre, Annual Report 2009, p. 14, available at http://www.undppc.org.fj/_resources/article/files/Pacific%20Centre%202009%20Annual%20Report.pdf.
- ¹³ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 1.
- ¹⁴ Ibid., para. 3.
- ¹⁵ Ibid., para. 31.
- ¹⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.208, para. 19.
- ¹⁷ Ibid., para. 20.
- ¹⁸ For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/65/640, annex I.
- ¹⁹ UNDP Fiji Multi-country Office, Increased efforts vital to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, Statement of Mr. Knut Ostby, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative representing 10 Pacific countries, 30 April 2010, available at http://www.undp.org.fj/index.php?option=com_news&Itemid=45&task=view&id=179.
- ²⁰ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, paras. 5–7.
- ²¹ The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
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| CERD | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination |
| CESCR | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| CEDAW | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| CRC | Committee on the Rights of the Child |
- ²² Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/60/CO/12), para. 2.
- ²³ The questionnaires referred to are those reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder issued between 1 January 2006 and 31 October 2010. Responses counted for the purposes of this section are those received within the relevant deadlines, and referred to in the following documents: (a) E/CN.4/2006/62, para. 24, and E/CN.4/2006/67, para. 22; (b) A/HRC/4/23, para. 14; (c) A/HRC/4/24, para. 9; (d) A/HRC/4/29, para. 47; (e) A/HRC/4/31, para. 24; (f)

- A/HRC/4/35/Add.3, para. 7; (g) A/HRC/6/15, para. 7; (h) A/HRC/7/6, annex; (i) A/HRC/7/8, para. 35; (j) A/HRC/8/10, para. 120, footnote 48; (k) A/62/301, paras. 27, 32, 38, 44 and 51; (l) A/HRC/10/16 and Corr.1, footnote 29; (m) A/HRC/11/6, annex; (n) A/HRC/11/8, para. 56; (o) A/HRC/11/9, para. 8, footnote 1; (p) A/HRC/12/21, para. 2, footnote 1; (q) A/HRC/12/23, para. 12; (r) A/HRC/12/31, para. 1, footnote 2; (s) A/HRC/13/22/Add.4; (t) A/HRC/13/30, para. 49; (u) A/HRC/13/42, annex I; (v) A/HRC/14/25, para. 6, footnote 1; (w) A/HRC/14/31, para. 5, footnote 2; (x) A/HRC/14/46/Add.1; (y) A/HRC/15/31/Add.1, para. 6 – for list of responding States, see http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/water/iexpert/written_contributions.htm; (z) A/HRC/15/32, para. 5.
- ²⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AsiaRegion/Pages/PacificSummary.aspx>.
- ²⁵ OHCHR Annual Report 2003, p. 98 and OHCHR Annual Appeal 2003, p. 58. See also OHCHR Annual Report 2002, pp. 92–93 and OHCHR Annual Appeal 2002, p. 63.
- ²⁶ OHCHR Strategic Management Plan 2008–2009, p. 65.
- ²⁷ Ibid., p. 68.
- ²⁸ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 8.
- ²⁹ ESCAP, Pacific Perspectives on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth, 2009, pp. 95–96, available at http://www.unescap.org/ESID/GAD/Publication/Pacific_Perspectives_Report.pdf.
- ³⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.208, para. 21.
- ³¹ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 10.
- ³² Ibid., para. 16.
- ³³ Ibid., para. 15.
- ³⁴ E/C.12/1/Add.84, para. 10.
- ³⁵ Ibid., para. 23.
- ³⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.208, para. 36.
- ³⁷ Ibid., para. 37.
- ³⁸ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 18.
- ³⁹ CRC/C/15/Add.208, para. 54.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid., para. 55.
- ⁴¹ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 25.
- ⁴² CRC/C/15/Add.208, para. 52.
- ⁴³ Ibid., para. 53.
- ⁴⁴ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092010SLB029, third paragraph.
- ⁴⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.208, para. 30.
- ⁴⁶ Ibid., para. 31.
- ⁴⁷ UNDP, Pacific Centre, Annual Report 2009, p. 13, available at http://www.undppc.org.fj/_resources/article/files/Pacific%20Centre%202009%20Annual%20Report.pdf.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 17.
- ⁴⁹ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 15.
- ⁵⁰ Ibid., para. 32.
- ⁵¹ ESCAP, Pacific Perspectives on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth, 2009, p. 31, available at http://www.unescap.org/ESID/GAD/Publication/Pacific_Perspectives_Report.pdf.
- ⁵² Ibid., p. 89.
- ⁵³ Ibid., p. 90.
- ⁵⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.208, para. 28.
- ⁵⁵ Ibid., para. 29.
- ⁵⁶ United Nations Statistical Division coordinated data and analyses, available at mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg.
- ⁵⁷ E/C.12/1/Add.84, para. 6.
- ⁵⁸ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 19.
- ⁵⁹ Ibid., para. 22.
- ⁶⁰ E/C.12/1/Add.84, para. 5.

- ⁶¹ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 20.
- ⁶² Ibid., para. 12.
- ⁶³ Ibid., para. 9.
- ⁶⁴ E/C.12/1/Add.84, para. 12.
- ⁶⁵ UNDP Fiji Multi-country Office, Increased efforts vital to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, Statement of Mr. Knut Ostby, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative representing 10 Pacific countries, 30 April 2010, available at http://www.undp.org.fj/index.php?option=com_news&Itemid=45&task=view&id=179
- ⁶⁶ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 17.
- ⁶⁷ Ibid., para. 34.
- ⁶⁸ CRC/C/15/Add.208, para. 42.
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- ⁷⁰ Ibid..
- ⁷¹ UNDP Fiji Multi-country Office, Increased efforts vital to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, Statement of Mr. Knut Ostby, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative representing 10 Pacific countries, 30 April 2010, available at http://www.undp.org.fj/index.php?option=com_news&Itemid=45&task=view&id=179.
- ⁷² Ibid.
- ⁷³ E/C.12/1/Add.84, para. 16.
- ⁷⁴ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 24.
- ⁷⁵ ESCAP, Pacific Perspectives on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth, 2009, p. 53, available at http://www.unescap.org/ESID/GAD/Publication/Pacific_Perspectives_Report.pdf.
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- ⁷⁸ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, p. 1.
- ⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 3.
- ⁸⁰ Ibid., p. 1.
- ⁸¹ Ibid., pp. 1–2.
- ⁸² Ibid., p. 2.
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- ⁸⁵ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, p. 2.
- ⁸⁶ UNDP Projects in Solomon Islands, available at http://www.undp.org.fj/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=87&Itemid=129.
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- ⁹⁰ E/C.12/1/Add.84, para. 33.
- ⁹¹ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, p. 3.
- ⁹² UNICEF submission to the UPR on Solomon Islands, para. 29.