

**Joint Submission of the UN Country Team for the Solomon Islands for the UN  
Compilation  
Universal Periodic Review of the Solomon Islands  
24<sup>th</sup> Session, Jan-Feb 2016**

## **Introduction**

1. As the Solomon Islands prepares for its second cycle review of the UPR in 2016, this submission is made by members of the Pacific Regional Offices that undertake work in the Solomon Islands<sup>1</sup>. While the submission provides available information, it does not attempt to provide a comprehensive review of the human rights situation in the Solomon Islands.
2. UNCT Pacific hopes that the preparations for the second review are seized as an opportunity for the Government and stakeholders to engage in consultations and exchange of views on new developments and implementation of 2011 UPR recommendations. It also encourages the Government to use the outcomes of the second review to further the enjoyment of human rights in the Solomon Islands.

### **I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK**

#### **A. Scope of international obligations**

1. Since the last UPR, Solomon Islands has ratified a number of ILO Conventions: the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (C138) in 2013; the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C182) in 2012; the 1958 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (C111) in 2012; the 1948 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention (C87) in 2012; the Equal Remuneration Convention (C100) in 2012; and the 1957 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention in 2012. In 2012, Solomon Islands also ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption.
2. The UNCT commends ongoing efforts by the Solomon Islands to ratify and accede to the remaining five international human rights treaties<sup>2</sup> and their optional protocols, as recommended and accepted [81.1-81.19] in the 2011 UPR and to implement through domestic application.

#### **B. Constitutional and legislative framework**

1. The Solomon Islands has initiated a constitutional reform process that would create a federal Constitution and transform the country's political system into a democratic federal republic. The Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU) is in its final consultation before the new Federal Constitution is tabled in Parliament; however the timeline for when the Constitution will be tabled is not clear.
2. While the latest 2014 Constitution draft has more progressive provisions that address discrimination and gender equality, the recognition of customary law in the draft and the fact that it does not contain a definition of discrimination wholly consistent with Article 1 of CEDAW and substantive equality for men and women will pose a challenge to eliminating discrimination against women and girls. **The UNCT encourages the Government of Solomon Islands to incorporate the definition of discrimination in its Constitution in accordance with Article 1 of CEDAW.**

3. The Solomon Islands passed the Immigration Act in 2012 which criminalizes trafficking in persons and related crimes including forced prostitution, forced labour and begging. It provides further protection for victims of trafficking.
4. To address high rates of domestic violence, the Solomon Islands passed the Family Protection Act (2014) (FPA). The Act sets out a comprehensive framework for institutional responses to domestic violence in Solomon Islands. However, one shortcoming of the legislation is that sentencing under the act is very low compared to the sentencing for violence in the penal code. Additionally, the implementation of protection orders has been problematic<sup>3</sup>. **The UNCT encourages the Government to institute appropriate policies to take account of and remedy any gaps in the implementation of the FPA.**
5. The Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission is currently reviewing the Penal and Criminal Procedure Code. The review comprises several different projects covering specific areas, including sexual offences<sup>4</sup>. The Solomon Islands Penal Code has several existing gaps on sexual offences against women and girls which limit protection of the rights of women and girls. These gaps include a lack of recognition of specific offences, a lack of minimum sentences and inclusion of sentences that are age-differentiated for girls, a limited definition of rape and consent and the defence of reasonable belief that a victim was of lawful age of consent.
6. The completion of work by the Law Reform Unit is constrained by human resources issues, capacity issues, change of government and priorities, political will and financial factors. **The UNCT recommends that the Government adequately resource the Law Reform Unit and repeal without delay all discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code.**
7. The Solomon Islands developed a Child and Family Welfare Bill which has been in a draft form since 2013. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children visited the Solomon Islands in May 2015 and noted the Government's renewed commitment to passing the Child and Welfare Bill<sup>5</sup>. **The UNCT encourages lobbying and advocacy on the Bill, ownership by key partner agencies and passing the Bill in Parliament.**
8. The Political Parties Integrity Act was passed in 2014 and a Political Party Integrity Commission (PPIC) was established in the same year. The Political Parties Integrity Act was tested in the 2014 General Elections. **The UNCT encourages the Government to carry out sensitization and awareness programmes on the provisions of the Act for all stakeholders to build and strengthen public confidence in the political party system.**
9. The Political Parties Integrity Act requires parties to register a 10% quota for females and compliance with this allows for the parties eligibility for additional funding. However, there are no repercussions under the Act for non-compliance and the additional funding is considered to be marginal. In 2015, a regional forum on women's political participation was organized by UNWomen and other partners<sup>6</sup> and recommendations from the forum will inform the Political Parties Integrity Act.

## **A. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policies**

10. The Solomon Islands does not have a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). At the 2011 UPR, Solomon Islands accepted recommendations to establish an NHRI [79.1-79.7] and the following year, a scoping mission to assess the feasibility of an independent NHRI was conducted by OHCHR and APF. However due to limited resources and capacity the establishment of an NHRI did not eventuate. The establishment of an NHRI is currently provided for in a clause in the 2014 draft Federal Constitution. **The UNCT continues to encourage the Solomon Islands to establish an independent NHRI to coordinate, provide capacity development and assist with strengthening human rights implementation throughout the country and seek support from the UN and the Asia Pacific Forum in this regard.**
11. The Solomon Islands National Advisory Committee on CEDAW (SINACC) was established in 2013 by the Government to provide an oversight and advisory role on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention. SINACC has faced significant challenges in terms of organizing and resourcing. The Solomon Islands also has a National Advisory and Action Committee on Children (NAACC) which was established in 1992. The NAACC has faced challenges in coordination and UNICEF has provided support in this regard. **The UNCT encourages the Government to further support and allocate adequate resources to the Committees to ensure the implementation of the respective human rights treaties.**

## **II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND**

### **A. Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms**

12. The Solomon Islands Government submitted its combined initial, second and third periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2013 and was reviewed in 2014. UNWomen supported the Government's development of the State report and funded two members of the delegation to attend the dialogue with the CEDAW Committee. At the request of the Government, UNWomen will continue to support and provide technical assistance for formulating an Implementation Strategy for the CEDAW Concluding Observations.
13. In 2014, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) noted with concern the failure of the Solomon Islands to respect reporting obligations. The following reports remain outstanding: Underground Work (Women) Convention 1935 C045; C087; C098, Equal Remuneration Convention 1951 (C100); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (C105); Discrimination Employment and Occupation Convention 1958 (C111); and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999 (C182) despite requests to the Government.
14. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences (SR-VAW) conducted a mission in the Solomon Islands at the request of the Government. The report of the SR-VAW highlighted numerous issues in the country, including violence committed against women during the tensions, high rates of intimate partner violence – national research on violence against women conducted in 2009 shows that 64% of women aged 15-49 who have ever been in a relationship have experienced

some form of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner<sup>7</sup> – and obstacles and difficulties in accessing the justice system.

15. The OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific has provided technical assistance to the Solomon Islands for UPR reporting. This assistance included training on the UPR jointly conducted by OHCHR, the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community/ Regional Rights Resource Team (SPC/RRRT) in 2014 and the deployment of a UNV in June 2015 to support the Government's preparation for the second cycle of the UPR.

### **III. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS**

#### **A. Equality and non-discrimination**

16. In 2010, the Solomon Islands launched the National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Development (GEWD) and the National Policy on Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW). While both policies are mainstreamed through the establishment of gender focal points in key line ministries, there remains ambiguity around responsibilities, issues relating to limited resources and a lack of clear monitoring objectives for implementation of the policies. The Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) has plans to review the GEWD policy. **The UNCT encourages the effective implementation of the two national policies through coordination, advocacy and awareness and resource allocation.**
17. The Solomon Islands has no explicit anti-discrimination laws or regulations to protect the rights of People Living with HIV (PLHIV).
18. Solomon Islands has recently taken measures to ensure that people living with HIV are not discriminated against in relation to entry, stay and residence in the country. In September 2015, the medical examination form for application for long term stay and work was revised to exclude HIV from the list of diseases subject to medical clearance. Thus, restrictions that were previously in place have now been lifted.
19. The Solomon Islands is the only Pacific country that criminalizes same sex conduct for both men and women. This is stated in Chapter 26, Section 162 of the Penal Code<sup>8</sup>. In 2011, the Solomon Islands accepted one recommendation [80.38] to repeal all provisions that criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults. **The UNCT urges the Government of the Solomon Islands to bring its legislation into conformity with its commitment to equality and non-discrimination and its international human rights obligations, by repealing all provisions which may be applied to criminalise sexual activity between consenting adults.**

#### **Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

20. The Solomon Islands enacted the Corrective Services Regulations in 2014 which will increase social rehabilitation of the inmates during detention and include *inter alia* the establishment of partnerships with NGOs, vocational rehabilitation, reconciliation with victim families after discharge. Continued implementation of the regulations is a step in promoting the rights of detainees. **The UNCT encourages the Government to ratify the**

**Convention against Torture in order to substantively protect and guarantee the rights of persons detained.**

21. The implementation of the Family Protection Act (FPA) is important to ensuring women's access to justice. The Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA) and MWYCFA have agreed to establish a Coordination Team to establish the priority activities under the Act and develop an implementation plan. **The UNCT encourages the Government to ensure coordination and adequate resourcing of implementing agencies under the FPA.**
22. The Government launched SAFENET in 2013 which made up of both government and non-government organizations and agencies to provide coordinated, frontline services and support to survivors and victims of gender-based violence. SAFENET created major changes in the way service providers interact with each other, however it still faces some challenges. The majority of services offered through SAFENET are located in Honiara, leaving women in rural areas without access to these vital services. Additional challenges include a lack of resources and capacity where providers struggle to assist and provide services to a large number of women and a lack of cohesion and centralised leadership to oversee the network as a whole and ensure that members are working together effectively. Some of these challenges are currently being addressed under the Solomon Islands Government-UN Joint Programme on Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls. **The UNCT encourages the Government to take all necessary action to bring SAFENET up to an optimally functional level.**

**Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

23. Dialogue on effectively combating corruption is underway in the Solomon Islands. UNDP supported a workshop on Anti-corruption Workshop held in Honiara in June 2015 which gathered views from relevant stakeholders on the best possible legal and institutional framework to addressing corruption in Solomon Islands, including the possible establishment of an independent Anti-Corruption Institution<sup>9</sup>. Government has enunciated in key Government policy documents and speeches a commitment to establishing an independent anti-corruption institution. **The UNCT welcomes the Government's announcement to establish an independent Anti-Corruption Institution and is committed to providing technical support in this area.**
24. Acknowledging the Government's commitment to peace building in Solomon Islands, UNDP has been supporting the formulation of the national peace building policy since 2011. This was done through wide consultations with women, traditional leaders, youth, Government ministries and faith-based organisations across all provinces. The Solomon Islands national peace building policy is still pending endorsement by the Cabinet of the Solomon Islands in June 2015. The Peacebuilding Policy should pave a way for a much coordinated approach to peacebuilding initiatives.
25. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) had the cooperation of all authorities as well as the necessary financial resources for the duration of its mandate until it officially wrapped up on 15 June 2012. The TRC final report which contains the full account of the "tensions" with recommendations was submitted to the Solomon Islands Government in February 2012. It was briefly tabled at the Parliament in September 2014 however no time for debate was provided. The new Government which came into place in December

2014 suggested that these recommendations should be reviewed. **The UNCT encourages the Government to make the TRC report public and widely disseminate the findings of the report.**

26. The Government has launched a number of initiatives and services to increase women's access to justice. Access to justice is available to citizens through the work of the courts, legal aid provided by the Public Solicitor's Office (PSO), the work of the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Police. There is a Family Protection Unit in the PSO.
27. The institutions and resources of the formal justice system are concentrated in Honiara, and this includes the majority of courts, magistrates, prosecutors, public solicitors and police. This creates difficulties for the mostly rural population, leaving them with limited or no access to the formal justice system. While this affects all justice users, gender discrimination exacerbates the challenges for women and girls. The SR-VAW noted that access to judicial services for women victims of violence is low and outlined recommendations on the need for the provision of infrastructure, human and financial resources.
28. Enhancing the capacity of formal and informal justice providers is a key area to increasing access to justice for women. Legal aid mapping in the Solomon Islands<sup>10</sup> has highlighted the importance of supporting gender sensitive legislation, policy and training increasing accountability for women victims of gender based violence and expanding services to reach women. Advocacy and outreach is an important component of each of these areas. **The UNCT supports Government policy and institutional strengthening to increase access to justice for women throughout the Solomon Islands.**

### **Right to privacy, marriage and family life & Freedom of movement**

29. There are discriminatory provisions in the Citizenship Act (1978) which remain and hinder full enjoyment of rights by all citizens. These provisions include: the acquisition and loss of nationality according to marital status only for women, the risk of statelessness for women who opt for the nationality of their foreign husbands as well as for foreign women married to a State party's national who should renounce their nationality; foreign women may only exercise their right to apply for nationality after two years of marriage with the consent of their husband; only male spouses may transmit their nationality to jointly adopted children; and finally, only male spouses may apply on behalf of their children for acquisition of nationality through naturalization.

### **Right to participate in public and political life**

30. The Solomon Islands held its National General Election in 2014. In this election, biometric Voter Registration (BVR) was introduced and utilised with great success. The original voter roll data pre BVR (2006 & 2010 voter rolls) was 342,119 and 448,189 registered voters respectively. This high voter roll was attributed to duplications and 'ghost' entries. In 2014 the voter roll was 287,565 registered voters, a more realistic figure. 90% turn out rate was also achieved<sup>11</sup>. While all 866 polling stations in the country opened on the polling Day, a challenge noted was the geographical isolation of polling stations. **The UNCT encourages the continuous development of capacity within the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission and relevant organizations.**

31. There has been some progress in increasing women's participation in politics. Only one female was elected to Parliament in the 2014 General Election and four women were elected to the Provincial Assembly and this did not result in an increase of female representation in Parliament. However, compared to previous elections 26 female candidates contested the 2014 General election. This is the highest number of female candidates contesting an election in the Solomon Islands history. **The UNCT recommends further Government intervention through civic education and the introduction of Temporary Special Measures (TSM) and continued electoral system reforms to facilitate the participation of women in decision making.**

### **Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

32. The Solomon Islands Government endorsed a national policy for rural water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in 2014 to improve WASH sector development and implementation. A national implementation strategy for rural WASH is in place for the 2015-2019 period. UNICEF through its WASH programme has worked to strengthen government counterparts and NGOs working in the area and reforms in the WASH Guidelines on community engagement and WASH in schools. National standards for rural water supply and sanitation design and construction are currently being developed.
33. Whilst policies are in place, the Solomon Islands has remote communities on many scattered islands and a fast growing population and this is a considerable challenge to providing services such as water supply, sanitation and adequate education facilities for children and communities. Little progress has been made towards increasing access to improved water supply and sanitation over the past two decades.
34. Progress towards eliminating open defecation has been almost stagnant between 2000 and 2012. Two-thirds of rural Solomon Islanders still defecate in the open, while only 15 percent of rural households use improved sanitation facilities. The Solomon Islands hosts the highest number of open defecators in the Pacific sub-region<sup>12</sup>. Beyond the health impacts of open defecation, the practice exposes women and children to increased risk of abuse and indignity. Women in Honiara's poorest communities face particularly high risks of physical and sexual violence, especially when collecting water, bathing, or using toilets at night<sup>13</sup>.

### **Right to health**

35. Increasing access to health services is very challenging in the Solomon Islands. A large part of this reason is that the largely subsistence population is dispersed across many islands and there is minimal infrastructure and transport links. There is limited access to immunization and other health services, a weak outreach system; poor health infrastructure management and accountability or unclear reporting lines. The attitudes of the health workers and status of the health facilities also limits utilization of health services.
36. The Solomon Islands progress on MDG5 to Improve Maternal Health is rated as "mixed"<sup>14</sup>. Mortality has remained relatively high in Solomon Islands with a low life expectancy at birth of 58 years for males and 66 years for females in 2009.

37. The Solomon Islands is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its National Population Policy. The review process is ongoing and outreach work is being undertaken in provinces to obtain a provincial perspective to be incorporated into the NPP formulation<sup>15</sup>.
38. Increasing the use of contraception is necessary to reduce the unmet need for family planning and to address the high rates of teen pregnancy (Adolescent fertility rate, total/urban/rural – 49%/45%/55%, 2010)<sup>16</sup>. More needs to be learned about the factors that discourage women from using contraception. **The UNCT encourages the Government to improve the quality of family planning services, commodities and information.**
39. Solomon Islands as a low HIV prevalence country with an estimated prevalence of 0.002% that has remained unchanged since 2010. The prevalence of syphilis infections appears to be higher among relatively younger, less educated, and women with multiple sex partners.
40. Infant and child mortality rates in Solomon Islands remain among the highest in the Pacific region. Neonatal causes, diarrhoea and respiratory infections are the main causes, linked to poor nutritional status and sanitation/hygiene challenges. One in three children under five years suffer from stunted growth as a consequence of long-term insufficient nutrient intake<sup>17</sup> and it is critical to scale up the infant and young child feeding to prevent malnutrition in children under 5 years.
41. Health system strengthening is an area that is currently being addressed in the Solomon Islands. Since 2010, UNFPA in partnership with the Australian Government and Auckland University of Technology has supported health systems strengthening to better respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV). This support included mentoring medical staff and building professional skills, supporting dissemination of the Health Standard Operating Procedures and strengthening information collection and case management. **The UNCT encourages the Solomon Island Government to continue to further support health system strengthening.**

### **Right to Education**

42. The fees for attending primary education and the first 3 years of secondary education were abolished in 2010, resulting in great improvement of the net enrollment rates for children attending primary education with averages of 98% nationwide<sup>18</sup>. However, only 55.7% of children start school at the right age indicating the remaining are either over or under aged. This could be largely due to distance of the school and parents' concern to send young children to school if school is too far. Gender parity is in favour of boys in primary education.
43. The survival rate for children reaching the last year of primary education is 91%. More boys transition to year 7 than girls. UNICEF has been providing support by trialing solar light power to 10 primary schools in in two provinces in 2013-2015 to make learning environment much friendlier and conducive for children and hence, encourage children to remain in school and successfully complete their primary school years. Most schools continue to need WASH facilities. In 2014, only 42.2% have access to clean and safe water.

44. The Learning achievement rates in literacy and numeracy at primary schools is very low. The literacy rates for Year 4 pupils in 2010 is 32% while numeracy rate at the same level is 46%<sup>19</sup>. Challenges to increasing literacy and numeracy levels include a lack of qualified teachers, a lack of appropriate teaching and learning resources, teacher absenteeism, lack of conducive learning environments and poor parental support. More than 35% of primary teachers are still untrained, though this is now being addressed by the government. UNICEF is currently supporting school-based in-service teacher training for primary teachers in one province is to address the issue of quality of teaching especially in mathematics and language in a more systematic and cost efficient manner.
45. Although enrollment in primary and lower secondary is high, access to senior education and tertiary education is very low. Compared to boys, access by girls to higher senior secondary is low. This relates to variety of reasons, ranging from early marriages to lack of school fees. A notable reason for the lower enrollment rates at senior secondary levels is the lack of space in senior secondary institutions. With the lack of the Government's future plans to construct additional secondary schools, this problem is likely to remain in the near future and this requires financial support from development partners as an alternative solution to reduce dropouts<sup>20</sup>.
46. UNFPA has supported the adolescent development program in partnership with the Ministry of Education through its Family Life Education Programme. The Family Life Education (FLE) programme has a component on training teachers and so far over 200 secondary school teachers have been trained. The FLE program is being rolled out to Honiara and Temotu province and by the end of 2015 extended to the provinces of Choiseul and Guadalcanal.

### **Persons with disabilities**

47. The Solomon Islands became a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008. **The UNCT encourages the Government to ratify the CRPD.**
48. UNDP contributed to the Government endeavor to advance the psychosocial recovery of people suffering from tensions related trauma through supporting delivery of counselling and trauma training to a network of 183 professionals and paraprofessionals operating at community level in Guadalcanal and Malaita Provinces.

### **Right to development and environmental issues**

49. The Independent Expert on the Effects of Foreign Debt and other Related International and Financial Obligations<sup>21</sup> noted Solomon Islands heavy reliance on foreign assistance to sustain its economy and called for improved co-ordination of development strategies between the Government and donor community and a regulatory environment that guarantees a transparent, accountable and people-centered delivery of aid.
50. The Solomon Islands has developed a draft formulation of the 'Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) roadmap'<sup>22</sup> and has stated its commitment to ensure the REDD+ process has safeguard mechanisms

in place for sound conservation of natural resources and development. **The UNCT encourages the Solomon Islands government to endorse the REDD+ roadmap.**

51. **The UNCT encourages the Solomon Islands Government to further consider the linkages between adaptation, disaster risk reduction and mitigation approaches particularly when opportunities for carbon finance or climate finance are also present. The UNCT also encourages the Government to identify financial and structural issues, while also providing increasing understanding amongst key decision makers of the implications of further environmental degradation.**
52. Due to limited land availability and lack of city planning, the provision of decent housing in Honiara remains a challenge. Approximately 35% of Honiara residents (about 3000 households or approx. 22,000 people) live in informal settlements. An assessment on climate change vulnerability and adaptation in 2013<sup>23</sup> highlighted that these informal settlements are vulnerable to climate change impacts because they are unplanned and often lack adequate facilities and services such as footpaths, power, sanitation and water and garbage collection.

### **Internally Displaced Persons**

53. In 2014, flash floods in the Solomon Islands were the largest scale disaster of the 2013/14 Pacific disaster season. Around 52,000 people were affected and roughly 11,000 people were displaced in formal evacuation centres.
54. The Solomon Islands flash floods highlighted a number of protection issues. This included the design and operation of formal evacuation centres, gender representation on governance committees, delivery of health care and nutrition assistance and distribution of resources, the need for private spaces for women to change clothes or breastfeed and the physical security measures in place, instances of gender-based violence against women and children and the need for mechanisms for monitoring the needs of affected populations outside of formal evacuation centres or displaced within wantok networks<sup>24</sup>.
55. Honiara based IDPs were removed from formal evacuation centres to their ‘province of origin’ (the province where they have ancestral land rights). This policy was not implemented in a manner which supported genuinely voluntary relocations. This policy disproportionately affected those of Malaitan ethnic background, who had previously resided in informal settlements in Honiara. Many of those relocated under this policy had never been to Malaita, or had not resided there for 20-30 years. This policy has had the effect of creating a number of female headed households, as male primary income earners returned to Honiara to seek work or await the distribution of assistance packages<sup>25</sup>.
56. UNDP supported the Government to ensure nutritious meals were provided to the internally displaced persons in the evacuation centers. Noting that there was a need to ensure a much coordinated and effective approach to managing Evacuation Centers for any future disasters, UNDP is now providing technical support to the Government to design workable guidelines and standard operating procedures for Evacuation Centers through its Solomon Islands Early Recovery Project for 2014 April Floods.

**57. The UNCT encourages the Government to ensure a coordinated approach to managing Evacuation Centres for future disasters, which incorporates a strong focus on protection issues and the situation of vulnerable and marginalized groups. The UNCT remains committed to providing technical assistance in mainstreaming human rights standards in humanitarian situations.**

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> OHCHR Pacific Regional Office, UN Women, UNICEF, ILO, UNDP and UNFPA

<sup>2</sup> To date Solomon Islands is party to ICESCR, ICERD, CEDAW, CRC, and OP-CEDAW. UNCT urges accession and ratification of the remaining international treaties: ICCPR, ICRMW, CAT, CRPD, CPPED and the optional protocols: OP-ICESCR, ICCPR – OP 1, ICCPR – OP 2, OP-CAT, OP-CRC-SC, OP-CRC-AC and CRPD-OP.

<sup>3</sup> UN Women, *Seeking Redress: Challenges and Recommendations to Increase Women's Access to Justice*, UN Women Pacific Multi-Country Office, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.lawreform.gov.sb/files/reports/Final-sexual\\_offences\\_report\\_2013\\_v4\\_12\\_June.pdf](http://www.lawreform.gov.sb/files/reports/Final-sexual_offences_report_2013_v4_12_June.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Joint Press Statement UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children Ms. Marta Santos Pais acknowledges Solomon Islands Government commitment in enacting child protection legislation, 21 May 2015.

<sup>6</sup> The forum was organized by UNDP in partnership with the political Parties Integrity Act Commission, Young Women's Parliamentary Group, Solomon Islands Parliament and UNWomen.

<sup>7</sup> Solomon Islands Government Family Health and Safety Study

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol\\_act/pc66/](http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/pc66/)

<sup>9</sup> Anti-Corruption workshop (26-28 May 2015) "*United Nations Convention against Corruption: Follow-up-up to the Solomon Islands' Review. Discussions on Anti-Corruption Strategies/Commission*". See Prime Minister's Office Facebook link for PM's media statement: *Prime Minister's Press Secretariat Office*

<sup>10</sup> UN Women, *Seeking Redress: Challenges and Recommendations to Increase Women's Access to Justice*, UN Women Pacific Multi-Country Office, 2015

<sup>11</sup> See following links for media release on election voter turnout 2014:

[www.solomontimes.com/news/record-voter-turnout-in-solomon-islands-elections-siec/8331](http://www.solomontimes.com/news/record-voter-turnout-in-solomon-islands-elections-siec/8331).

<sup>12</sup> UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme 2014 Update

<sup>13</sup> Amnesty International Report on Gender Violence ("Where's the dignity in that" ASA 43/001/2011)

<sup>14</sup> 2013 Pacific regional MDGs tracking report

<sup>15</sup> UNFPA submission

<sup>16</sup> UNFPA submission

<sup>17</sup> Demographic Health Survey 2007

<sup>18</sup> MEHRD Performance assessment Report, 2013

<sup>19</sup> MEHRD Solomon Islands Standard Test Assessment, 2010

<sup>20</sup> UNICEF submission

<sup>21</sup> Mission report on the visit to Solomon Islands 14-18 February 2011

<sup>22</sup> [http://www.unredd.net/index.php?view=download&alias=13119-si-redd-roadmap13119&category\\_slug=national-redd-strategy-official-documents3160&option=com\\_docman&Itemid=134](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?view=download&alias=13119-si-redd-roadmap13119&category_slug=national-redd-strategy-official-documents3160&option=com_docman&Itemid=134)

<sup>23</sup> <http://unhabitat.org/books/honiara-solomon-islands-climate-change-vulnerability-assessment/>

<sup>24</sup> UNWomen submission

<sup>25</sup> *ibid*