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Pacific NGOs and CSOs at CSW

The Pacific Centre will support the participation of four non government organizations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) from the Pacific at the 52nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from February 25 to March 7.

The CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body.

The NGOs and CSOs include the Cook Islands Women's Counselling Centre, Pacific Islands News Association, Solomon Islands National



CSW here I come: Keirangi Samuel, Cook Islands Women's Counselling Centre's Legal Training Officer will attend the CSW

Council of Women, and Vois Blong Mere. After attending the CSW, these organisations will be required to undertake CSW related activities at the local, national or regional level.

This year, the CSW priority theme is "Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women." There will also be an interactive dialogue on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and on post-conflict peace-building.

The Pacific Centre's support to NGOs and CSOs to attend the CSW is part of a larger project aimed at building the capacity of Pacific NGOs and CSOs. More proactive and strengthened Pacific NGO/CSO involvement will complement strengthened Pacific Island government engagement with the CSW and related processes.

The four NGOs/CSOs who will attend the CSW will also receive a small grant that is dedicated to CSW follow up activities.

These are intended to ensure that not only will the capacity of those NGOs selected to participate at the CSW be built, existing NGO/CSO networks working on women's rights and human rights will also be strengthened, information on the CSW and related issues will be shared, and the capacity of others in the Pacific region that were unable to attend the CSW can also be built.

NZAID Funds Pacific Centre Programmes

The UNDP Pacific Centre has benefited from a grant of USD \$900,000 from the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) for use in the implementation of its Democratic Governance; and Crisis Prevention and Recovery programmes.

Both programmes will receive USD \$450,000 each. This funding covers a period of one year.

The Democratic Governance programme focuses on strengthening Parliaments and democratic institutions; justice and human rights; accountability and transparency frameworks; anti-corruption; and support

for civil society and non government organizations and local level governments.

The Crisis Prevention and Recovery programme works in the area of peace building and conflict prevention; human security; and disaster risk reduction.

NZAID along with AusAID have been funding partners for Pacific Centre programmes since the inception of the Centre in 2005.

The Pacific Centre works in three main programme areas: Poverty Alleviation and the Achievement of the MDGs; Democratic Governance and Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

Disabled Girls and Women Face Double Discrimination

Disability issues need to be viewed through gender lens, because girls and women, and boys and men experience disability issues differently. Girls and women are often discriminated against because of their gender and disability.

At a Roundtable on the Situation of Girls and Women with Disabilities in the Pacific, some 30 participants from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Tuvalu and Vanuatu discussed how girls and women in their countries lived with their disabilities and the challenges they face in accessing education, employment, information and health services, among others.

These discussions provided input into a draft report on the Situation of Girls and Women with Disabilities in the Pacific commissioned by the UNDP Pacific Centre. The report examines the challenges faced by girls and women with disabilities in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories; the social and economic factors leading to these challenges; and the existing laws, policies and programmes by national and local governments, civil society and the private sector as well as development partners to address challenges faced by girls and women with disabilities.

The draft report highlights that girls and women with disabilities in the Pacific face double discrimination because of their gender and disability; and are excluded from many social, cultural and economic activities. They face challenges in

many areas, which include among others, accessing quality primary, secondary and tertiary education; accessing quality health care, finding employment, participating in cultural activities and starting a family.

Elsie Taloafiri, a Training Officer with the Community Based Rehabilitation department at the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health, said that one of the most interesting issues raised at the Roundtable was that of sexual health and reproductive rights of girls and women with disabilities.

"The research presented has shown that girls with disability can become sterilized due to abuse and harassment. Girls can also face violence and discrimination and because of this they tend to hide away and stay in their shells," said Ms Taloafiri. She added that strategies need to be put in place to address this.

Teewata Rokete, participant from Kiribati discussed the lack of educational opportunities for disabled girls on the outer islands.

"It is very hard for girls with disabilities living in the outer islands of Kiribati to go to school. They stay at home."

She added that families were over-protective of their disabled family members so they were left in the home and taken care of, and were not encouraged to do something for themselves.

The Roundtable was organized by the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) from 26-27 November in Nadi last year.

Participants contributed to a set of recommendations aimed at urging Pacific governments, NGOs and development partners to act rapidly to address the issues faced by girls and women with disabilities.

These recommendations will be included in the final UNDP Pacific Centre report on the Situation of Girls and Women with Disabilities which will be finalized and published later this year.



Presentation: Angelene Chand, Secretary of the Fiji Disabled People's Association at the workshop

CEDAW: Central Binding Document

The Convention of Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) should be seen by all countries as a central legal binding document says the Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee, Ms Dubravka Simonovic.

Ms Simonovic participated in the Pacific Sub Regional Workshop for the Implementation of CEDAW, jointly organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in Port Vila in November.

"In the past 25 years we have seen at the CEDAW Committee that the Convention was insufficiently used by countries to eliminate discrimination against women, but now we are going deeper and deeper in terms of requiring its full implementation. It is clear that the CEDAW Convention should be used as a central legally binding instrument for the development of different

policies for the advancement of women, as well as the elimination of discrimination against women," said Ms Simonovic.

She emphasised it was also important to connect the implementation of the CEDAW Convention with the implementation of other human rights treaties as well as with other complementary policy documents such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration.

"These are complementary documents, in which CEDAW should be seen as the central legally binding instrument, and others should be integrated in its implementation as supportive policy measures."



Vanuatu workshop: CEDAW Committee Chairperson Dubravka Simonovic (R) and Vanuatu's Minister of Justice and Social Welfare, Hon Joshua Kalsakau (L) escorted by dancers

The workshop was attended by representatives of government, non government organizations and youth groups from Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu.

Ms Dubravka Simonovic said she was encouraged to see the participation and dedication of the high level government and non government delegates present.

"We have seen a lot of political will to see the full implementation and incorporation of CEDAW. I hope that the countries here can encourage other Pacific Island Countries to proceed with their reports and obligations under this convention."

The workshop concluded with a set of recommendations based on four thematic areas being gender-based violence, political participation, sexual and reproductive rights and health and women in the labour force. The document also included specific recommendations relating to young women, focusing on, among other things, the double discrimination they face.

Interview with Ms Simonovic on pages 4 and 5

Cook Islands CEDAW Legislative Compliance Report Near Completion

A report undertaken by the Pacific Centre examining the compliance of Cook Islands laws with CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) will soon be finalized.

The report measures the Cook Islands Constitution and national law against a set of indicators that were developed to measure compliance with CEDAW.

The draft report was presented at a recent workshop that was supported by the Pacific Centre in Raratonga in December to a wide selection of non government organisations and government representatives working in the area of women's rights.

The Minister for Internal Affairs and Social Services Hon. Ngamau Munokoa found the workshop and the report very interesting.

"This workshop has given me a new insight into what we need to do with our national laws and legislation in order to be compliant with CEDAW," she said.

She added that the workshop was also very useful because it had gathered all local stakeholders to discuss the issues and this enabled them to "have ownership of the discussions and what goes in the report."

Hon. Munokoa said she could see Cook Islands working towards full CEDAW compliance as challenging.



Making a point: Hon Ngamau Munokoa, Cook Islands Minister for Internal Affairs and Social Services

"While we are ratifying to conventions which are good for our people, I feel our culture is also important."

"We will have to work very hard and advocate to all the members of parliaments are CEDAW compliance."

The Cook Islands CEDAW Compliance report follows the joint UNIFEM and UNDP Pacific Centre report "Translating CEDAW into Law: CEDAW Legislative Compliance in Nine Pacific Island Countries" that was released last year.

This report contains a set of CEDAW legislative compliance indicators developed for each of

the 16 CEDAW articles.

All national constitutions and existing law in the nine countries covered in the report were measured against these indicators.

The nine countries included in the report are the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

The results indicate varying levels of compliance and an explanation on why an existing provision in the country's law does or does not meet the standard prescribed in the indicator.

CEDAW Chair on Pacific Issues

1. *Twelve Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have ratified or acceded to CEDAW but only four have reported to the CEDAW Committee on their efforts to implement CEDAW. What advice do you have for the PICs that have not yet reported?*

My advice to the eight remaining Pacific Island Countries that have not yet produced their reports would be to follow the four States Parties that have produced their reports; Cook Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu and Fiji, because this report is the first step in order to show that they are fully committed to the implementation of the Convention in their countries. If there are problems with the preparation of the report it is essential to seek technical assistance from the UNOHCHR or from the UN agencies that are working in these countries. It is very important to start the reporting process in order to assess the current situation on the implementation of the Convention.

2. *Many PICs may find the reporting process especially difficult for small island developing states. Would you like to make any comment on the CEDAW reporting and shadow reporting by PICs?*

In my experience, it is not easy for small countries to produce or report to all treaty bodies under conventions that they have ratified, but it is very important that they start this process. The first step in reporting is the hardest one to make, but when they organize this process everything becomes easier when it is organized as periodic reporting. The reason why the first report is more difficult is because it requires organization of a ministerial or inter-ministerial group to work on the report, whereas later periodical reporting can be organized in a systematic manner. The implementation of the concluding comments of the Committee is in the same time preparation of the next report,

so that there is a cycle of reporting that is not so difficult for a government to organize.

3. *Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Cook Islands have all had concluding comments issued to them by the CEDAW Committee. Can you explain what the concluding comments are?*

Those countries have produced and presented their reports to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Following constructive dialogue with delegations of these countries, the Committee has adopted concluding comments, which means that the Committee has adopted its recommendations for the implementation of the Convention in those countries. In the concluding comments for each country, the Committee is expressing specific concerns on specific issues and is making recommendations on better implementation of the Convention at the national level.

4. *How can PICs use these concluding comments in developing their national implementation plans, or national action plans or national development plans?*

It is very important that they use the concluding comments of the Committee that should be seen as a helping tool for governments to bring their legislation and national policies in line with the CEDAW Convention. The concluding comments as a helping tool are indicating the direction to governments on specific actions that are needed and it is up to governments to decide on how to incorporate them in relevant laws or national action plans. To give a few examples: if a government is doing a national action plan on violence against women, then, it is important to observe the parts of the concluding comments that are addressing violence against women; if a government is dealing with the political

participation of women, then it is important to focus on Articles 7 and 8 of the CEDAW Convention and to put the recommendations as well as actions for their implementation in the relevant action plans; if you have recommendations of the Committee that are addressing discriminatory laws, then, it is important that the government puts forth specific legislative measures to change discriminatory provisions and to adopt the new law as suggested by the CEDAW Committee.

5. *Based on the reports the CEDAW Committee has reviewed from Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands, what are your general comments about the implementation of CEDAW in the Pacific?*

Some issues are clearly relevant to all the States Parties to the CEDAW Convention, some are similar in the countries of the same region and some are country specific. What is similar in those four countries from this region is that they have all started the process of incorporation of the CEDAW Convention into their national legal systems, but they are at the beginning of the process. They all need to fully incorporate the CEDAW Convention in their national legal systems. They also need to check the compatibility of the relevant national legislation with the Convention because some laws are still discriminatory and it is important to bring them in line with the requirements of the Convention.

6. *Would you have any strategies to propose to address the challenges faced in implementing CEDAW in the Pacific?*

Speaking of the strategies to address the challenges it is very important to decide what the main priorities are. In my opinion, it is very important to address the issues of discriminatory legislation at the very beginning. If you have discriminatory norms that

are not in line with the protection of women's rights as contained in the articles of the CEDAW Convention, it is something that should be seen as a priority by governments. It is important for governments to produce a specific timeframe for different legislative measures and then to use the concluding comments of the Committee as a helpful tool to change those discriminatory laws. Sometimes they will need a strong media campaign as well as awareness rising in order to change the legislation that discriminates women.

7. *Would you say that legislative changes to change discriminatory laws would be the first and foremost priority?*

I would say that, yes, together with the full incorporation of the Convention in line with the concluding comments of the CEDAW Committee.

8. *Changing the law usually takes a lot of time. Are there any other interim measures that governments can take while waiting for the laws to change in due cause?*

There are many measures that can be envisaged but it is really up to the government to see what the appropriate measures at the national level are. If legislative processes are very long, then it is very important to have an objective assessment of the situation to see what is reachable in a certain timeframe. It is also important to develop good co-operation with NGOs and with Members of Parliaments in order to achieve those changes within a certain timeframe. So, it is a process that should be realistically designed with certain objectives in mind in order to achieve the established goals in the end.

9. *You have just mentioned working with Non Government Organisations (NGOs). Could you explain more on that?*

NGOs are an extremely important partner in terms of the implementa-

tion of the CEDAW Convention and in many countries we are seeing that governments are able to establish good co-operation with NGOs, which ultimately brings results concerning the protection of women's rights. NGOs are critical, but they can indicate to specific problems women are facing in everyday life. It is for the government to accept that those critical issues need to be addressed. Governments and experts from NGOs could and should work together to find the best solution or to adopt new policies or legislation needed.

10. *What has impressed you about Pacific efforts to implement CEDAW, and particularly the concluding comments?*

It is very important that this workshop is focusing on the implementation of the concluding comments. This is going in the right direction, because at this level of the implementation of the CEDAW Convention and development in terms of better position of women throughout the world, it is important to have very concrete ideas on what we need to achieve in the future. The CEDAW Convention is the key international instrument for the advancement of women's rights and it should be used at the national level as a basis for all national policies and legislation dealing with gender equality, the advancement of women and the elimination of discrimination against women.

11. *Would you say that is happening in the Pacific right now? Did you perceive this from the four country reports?*

When we had those reports before the CEDAW Committee, the Committee considered the situation and adopted the concluding comments. It is important to observe the political will needed to start the process and to accept an international guidance from the UN CEDAW Committee. Now, these countries have to work with all the segments of society, including the media and academic institutions in order to achieve changes and to

achieve compliance with the CEDAW Convention.

12. *UNDP Pacific Centre and UNIFEM Pacific developed 113 CEDAW legislative compliance indicators and a report on CEDAW Legislative Compliance in nine Pacific Island Countries. Do you think that this report is an important tool for use in the implementation of CEDAW in the region?*

This is a very good example of a regional initiative. It is a very useful and important tool and should be tested and used and probably also improved in the future by the countries that are going to use this tool. It is a very important tool for the elimination of de jure discrimination against women. It is very commendable and I hope that in the future we will have more such tools all over the world.

13. *Have CEDAW legislative compliance indicators been developed in other parts of the world or are there any sort of moves along these lines?*

I think that the UNOHCHR is currently developing indicators for all human rights conventions. We still do not know what types of indicators are going to be developed, but they will certainly include some kind of legislative indicators. Also, several countries are developing different types of indicators. In my opinion, what we have seen developed here, this comprehensive set of legislative indicators is really a very good example of what could be done at a regional level in order to give countries a tool to assess the situation. This is a very good example and I hope that we will have a replication of those legislative indicators in other regions in order to see what is really universal that could be supported by the CEDAW Committee as universal legislative indicators.

**Excerpts of interview with
CEDAW Committee Chairperson
Ms Simonovic in Port Vila in
November, 2007**

Climate Change a Development Threat

Pacific people are at a great risk of losing their homes and livelihoods as a result of climate change, which is recognised as one of the largest challenge to development this century.

While the Small Islands Developing States in the Pacific are amongst the lowest carbon emitters, they will be the first to suffer from climate change the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2007/2008 warns.

The report that was launched by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Richard Dictus, in Suva in December warns that climate change can result in annual damage costs of up to seven percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu.

"Many coastal communities in the



HDR facts: Richard Dictus presents the contents of the HDR

Pacific could be seriously affected by rising sea levels and flooding caused by global temperature increases of 3-4 degrees Celsius could result the permanent or temporary displacement of people living in low-lying areas," said Mr. Dictus.

Pacific Island Countries are already susceptible to a range of natural hazards such as cyclones, storm surges, droughts and flooding. Climate change will see extreme events happen both more frequently and more intensely.

The Pacific is already experiencing the impact of more extreme events such as tropical cyclones and storm surges.

Coupled with projected rates of sea-level rise and flooding, critical infrastructure such as airports, port facilities, roads, vital utilities such as power and water, coastal protection structures and tourism facilities as well as social services such as health and education are being exposed to increased risk.

In the Pacific, carbon dioxide emission has annually changed from between 1990 to

2004 by 2.3% in Fiji, 0.1% in Papua New Guinea, 1.5% in Samoa, 0.6% in Solomon Islands, 3.7% in Tonga and 2.4% in Vanuatu.

On the global scale, Pacific Islands are negligible polluters however they will be the first to suffer from the effects of climate change and need to put in place climate change adaptation strategies.

"The proof that climate change is happening as we speak is based now on hard scientific evidence. We can observe the changes ourselves and the consequences are inescapable. The world community needs to take action and the UN agencies in the Pacific are committing themselves to provide support and assistance in any way they can," he concluded.

Meanwhile, the Human Development Index ranking of Pacific Islands countries that measures the development in countries broadly through progress in health, wealth and knowledge, remains relatively unchanged for 2007.

The report ranks the following Pacific Islands Countries: Tonga 55 (unchanged when compared to 2006), Fiji 92, Samoa 77 (both have moved up by two ranks), Solomon Islands 129, Vanuatu (both moved up by one rank) and Papua New Guinea 145, representing an upward movement of six ranks.

Sub Regional MDG-based Workshop for Melanesian Countries

Government and civil society representatives from Fiji, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands attended a four day sub-regional workshop on MDG-based planning and costing.

The workshop was organised by the UNDP Pacific Centre in collaboration with UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDESA from 12-15 November in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

This followed a similar workshop that was organized for the North Pacific Countries in June in 2007.

It built upon the foundation established in a regional workshop on MDG-based planning, the development of a pro poor policy and

budgeting framework that took place in October 2006.

This workshop also introduced planning, needs assessment and costing tools and how they can support policy development for the achievement of the MDGs in Small Islands Developing States.

One of the main objectives of the workshop was to strengthen national capacity to implement the MDGs and the Mauritius Strategy

Pacific Centre Gets New Staff, Loses Some

The UNDP Centre has new staff on board with the arrival of the Centre's first Deputy Manager Lenka Tucek; the Centre's first HIV Specialist Ferdinand Strobel and a new Senior Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery Advisor, Jean - Luc Stalon.

Ms Tucek is responsible for the overall administration of the Pacific Centre.

She brings with her four years of UNDP experience, gained in Africa, Central Asia and UNDP Headquarters in New York

Prior to working with UNDP, she worked as an economic expert for Swiss development cooperation, as well as senior manager of an international advisory company, reviewing business processes of multinational companies.

She has also taken part in several humanitarian missions.

Mr Stalon is responsible for the overall operation of the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Team including the disaster risk management.

He has 15 years of experience in crisis and conflict issues and has worked in Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo, Somalia, Cote

d'Ivoire, and the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery in Geneva.

His main focus has been crisis prevention and recovery with a major emphasis

on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants and security sector reform.

Prior to rejoining the UNDP, he served as the head of the disarmament programme within the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Cote d'Ivoire.

Mr Strobel, the Centre's new HIV Specialists works as part of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement and Poverty Reduction team.

He was previously a consultant with UNAIDS in Bangkok, and prior to that, worked as the HIV and AIDS programme officer for the Thailand Country Office.

He was also a core member of the UN regional task force on mobility and HIV vulnerability reduction for South East Asia. Before joining UNDP, Ferdinand was a humanitarian worker in West, East and Central Africa with Medecins Sans Frontieres and Concern Worldwide.

Meanwhile, the Centre has lost two staff members: Peter Muller, the Centre's Natural Disaster Reduction and Transition Specialist and Shoma Prasad, Young Professional in the Democratic Governance team.

Peter, who had been with the Centre since its inception, has taken up the post of the Regional Disaster Response Adviser for the Pacific with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) based in Suva.

Shoma joined the Centre in October 2006 and left in December to join her husband in New Zealand.

Newcomers



Lenka Tucek, Deputy Manager



Jean-Luc Stalon, Senior Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery Advisor



Ferdinand Strobel, HIV Specialist

On the Move



Peter Muller, joins OCHA



Shoma Prasad leaves Pacific Centre

Latest Knowledge Products



Overcoming Vulnerability to Rising Oil Prices: Options for Asia and the Pacific

Across Asia and the Pacific, soaring oil prices are threatening the prospects of millions of poor households – and posing an unforeseen challenge to the Millennium Development Goals. Since 2003, prices have been rising inexorably, from around US\$22 to above US\$80 a barrel now, and have been showing little sign of easing. Many developing countries in the region are likely to become even more exposed to rising prices, as measured in this Report by a new 'Oil Price Vulnerability Index' (OPVI). In response, the Report represents a set of policy options and priorities that can help reduce national vulnerability to future price rises and protect the interests of the poor.

http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/Files/Publications/UNDP_Oil_prices_Book.pdf



Human Development Report 2007/2008 Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World

The Human Development Report continues to frame debates on some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity. It is an independent report commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The HDR 2007/2008 examines the 21st century climate challenge and the risk and vulnerability of climate shock in an unequal world, as well as discussing mitigation and adaptation strategies.

http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/Files/Publications/HDR_20072008_EN.pdf



Checklists for Integrating Human Rights in Natural Disaster Management in the Pacific

These checklists, specific to the Pacific region, aim to facilitate the integration of human rights issues in all aspects of natural disaster management. The checklists are intended for use by all concerned actors in situations of humanitarian emergencies to ensure that human rights concerns are effectively incorporated in every stage of preparedness, response and recovery.

http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/Files/Publications/Checklist_Integrating_HumanRights_in_natural_Disaster_Management.pdf



Workshop Report for Integrating Human Rights in Natural Disaster Management in the Pacific

This report covers the workshop that was held in May 2007 on the topic of Integrating Human Rights in Natural Disaster Management.

http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/Files/Publications/Workshop_Report.pdf

PASIFIKA Focus is a publication of the UNDP Pacific Centre.

UNDP Pacific Centre focuses on specific issues within the practice areas of UNDP that impact on small vulnerable island countries of the sub region. The primary focus of the Pacific Centre is to deliver policy and technical advice and build capacity of Pacific Island countries to respond more effectively to the development challenges of the region.

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Upcoming Events

Gendered Dimensions of Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change

February 20 - 21, Suva

This workshop will share experiences and learnings on gender-responsive programming on disaster risk management in the Pacific. Relevant regional participants from the NGO sector, government representatives of Disaster Management offices, UNDP personnel from Country offices in Pacific will attend.

52nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

February 25 - March 07, New York

This session's priority theme is "Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women." Government representatives and members of NGOs/CSOs will attend the CSW. The UNDP Pacific Centre is supporting the participation of four Pacific NGOs/CSOs.