

Intervention - Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management of Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peacebuilding

I speak on behalf of the Pacific Islands group.

The Pacific has been actively discussing the equal participation of women and gender dimensions of conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building at inter-governmental level in relation to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and human security since 2006.

This has been in the context of recent conflict and instability in some countries of our region. Given the high levels of violence against women, UNSCR1325 provides a useful tool even in times of peace.

Women's non-governmental organisations have and continue to be pro-active in raising these issues and continue to play a key role in post-conflict peacebuilding in countries in our region.

In 2007, members of the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) mandated the establishment of a Human Security Framework. The Framework explores aspects of human security such as unemployment, rising crime levels, natural disasters, HIV and explicit gender security issues such as gender based violence.

Also, in 2007, with assistance from UNDP, the Pacific Islands Forum brought together government officials and civil society organisations including women's groups to discuss human security issues, policies and partnerships for strengthening the involvement of women in peace building in the Pacific.

Chair,

We are encouraged by ongoing international dialogue on women, peace and security and welcome continued engagement and support to ensure that this important issue remains on our regional policy agenda.