



**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF NAURU**

**Statement by the Honorable Isabella Dageago M.P.,
Minister for Women's and Social Development Affairs, Health, Internal Affairs and
Disabilities**

**At the Sixty Fifth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
United Nations, New York, 15th to 26th of March 2021**

**Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Nauru welcomes the priority theme for this year: “Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” We believe this theme is crucial to our efforts towards achieving our sustainable development aspirations and the 2030 Agenda.

In the last few years, we have worked on building the necessary frameworks and institutions to ensure that we can carry out our work at the national level more effectively. We recently established a stand-alone Ministry in November 2020 focusing on Women's issues. The establishment and configuration of this Ministry, is to strengthen



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information-sharing between the divisions and coordinated planning of activities, effectively breaking down the silo-approach.

Chair,

Ensuring the full and effective participation of women in decision-making positions and public life remains our core priority. In terms of women participation in public life, we have made much progress. We have more women in the top decision and policy making positions. We have surpassed gender parity in leadership positions as Heads of Departments and Heads of our Foreign Missions. Women are also well-represented in Boards of Directors positions in our state-owned entities (SOEs).

To foster the participation of women in the parliament, we have had various capacity building programs and workshops done in partnership with the UN. During the 2019 Election, women candidacy workshops were conducted but despite the high levels of participation in the workshop, Nauru still has less than 10% of women who ran for the parliamentary seats in the general election. Currently there are only two women Parliamentarians out of the 19 members and one woman as a Cabinet Minister. Much remains to be done to increase women's participation in the general elections. Raising awareness and fostering dialogue to encourage women to run for office is essential.



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It is important to note that as we strive to ensure the rights and role of women to participate in public life and attain decision-making and political positions, there is a need to work well with men as our counterparts and political allies and leaders. We need to work together rather than in silo to realize our goals and reaffirm our commitment for mutual respect and equal partnership.

Chair,

Nauru by the grace of God remains COVID-19 free. Upon the WHO's declaration of a pandemic, this government took immediate steps to safeguard our people from the virus. We implemented a very successful capture and containment policy to protect our borders in March 2020 and to date, Nauru still remains COVID free. However, this policy has seen the reduction in our passenger airline services from weekly flights to one flight a fortnight. The reduced flights have impacted the jobs of our Airline staff who are mostly women. The government has put in place an assistance package for these workers by re-allocating their jobs to assist in other government departments. This ensures that our Airline workers could continue to earn income during these difficult times.



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Chair

In 2019 Nauru had its historic 1st Nauru National Women's Summit. The outcomes Document called the **Tomano Declaration** is progressively being realized and we are grateful to our developmental partners.

We also have done work around the Juvenile Justice System and conversations have begun to gain traction for proper laws and consultation processes for the different stakeholders involved.

I also wish to commend the efforts of the likeminded organizations in Nauru in the development of a Toll-Free line for Violence-related issues, which is directly linked to the Women's Department and Child Protection Division for quick response and action.

Chair,

2021 is the year for the cycle reporting for CEDAW and the CRC and there has already been a roll out plan and the intent is for specific budget allocation for the implementation of the recommendations.

While the pandemic has further increased vulnerabilities of women, it would be remiss of me, if I did not remind everyone that women are also often among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Empowering



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women and girls should be seen as an important way to build their resilience. Yet, failure to take strong action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions threatens to foreclose any future for our women and girls.

Nauru recognizes the important platform that the CSW provides by raising key issues in empowering women and girls across the globe, and we call for the continued support towards the implementation of our national policies and plans.

Tubwa Kor (Thank you)