Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing +25 Review
Solomon Islands Country Statement
27th November 2019
Honourable Minister Freda Tuki

Madam Chair
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam Chair

It is an honour and privilege to be given this opportunity to share some remarks from Solomon Islands. First of all I bring warm greetings from the people and Solomon Islands government particularly from my Ministry of Women Youth Children and Family Affairs.

Chair
I also would like to congratulate ESCAP, UN Women and the UN family for successfully organising this Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing +25 review.

The Solomon Islands Government is very proud to have been able to submit its Solomon Islands Beijing + 25 National Review Report. Timely and effective reporting to International human rights, gender and women’s empowerment frameworks is not always easy for small islands countries such as Solomon Islands due to different challenges and not limited to data collection, limited finance, geographical settings etc.

However each time that the Solomon Islands Government have reported, this has always given us cause for not only celebration, but also encouragement to continue to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the Solomon Islands. Our presence here today reflects this commitment.

Chair
Solomon Islands have made great strides in progressing gender equality and the empowerment of women by the increasing number of policy developments and reforms that capture gender equality and women’s empowerment as policy intents and principles both at the national and provincial level.

However we do acknowledge that to ensure full compliance to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action commitments, more work is needed as you can also see from our national review report itself.

Chair
It is on this note that I would like to challenge and or appeal to all those donor countries and more developed countries than Solomon Islands present here today.

While there is the commitment to implement Beijing Declaration and Platform for action and all other international frameworks including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination and the Sustainable development Goals, for very small developing island nation like the Solomon Islands implementing and realizing these commitments are still very much a challenge, which will still require your support.

Chair

To reiterate this point I would like to give an example, while there are many commitments, conferences and forums related to climate change, I still question how are these impacting or addressing the climate crisis that is currently happening to our small islands in the Solomon Islands.

Where I come from the sea level rise is a real threat for our people including Food security. People are losing their identity because of having to migrate from small islands that they have had lived on for generations, because in the Solomon Islands land and identity goes together.

Chair
The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing +25 review provides an opportune time for all of us to reflect, learn and make it right from here on. Making it right from the start by ensuring outcomes of this conferences will be translated into actual actions that will have impact on the lives of women and girls, and importantly the lives of women and girls in small developing island nations whom are considered most vulnerable.

It is my utmost wish to see that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for action for women and girls is now not only a declaration and platform for action on paper but will actually have impact on the lives of women and girls around the globe.

Chair
I conclude by saying a sincere thank you to all the donor and development partners, INGOs, NGOs, civil society organizations and stakeholders that have supported and continues to support the Solomon Islands government to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Thank you.