

PACIFIC BRIEF: UN WOMEN'S  
POSITION ON THE POST 2015 STAND  
ALONE GOAL ON ACHIEVING  
GENDER EQUALITY

## Towards a Transformative Goal on Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment in the Post 2015 Framework

### The evidence for a stand-alone goal

The need for a transformative goal on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment is grounded in the commitment by UN Member States to gender equality and advancing women's rights. These commitments are enshrined in global treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), in policy commitments such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). International commitments have also been made in relevant outcomes of the General Assembly, including the Millennium Declaration, in ECOSOC and Security Council resolutions, and in agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), including most recently in the agreed conclusions of CSW 57 on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls<sup>1</sup>.

The case for a stand-alone gender-related goal, as well as addressing gender priorities into each goal, has been actively supported by Pacific Leaders and the women's movement. The importance of a stand-alone goal in post 2015 development

agenda was evident at the 12th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women which was held in the Cook Islands in October 2013. A key recommendation from the Triennial Conference was that; 'the post 2015 development agenda to adopt a transformative stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment, structured around several target areas: freedom from violence, gender equality in capabilities and resources, gender equality and decision making power, and a voice in public and private institutions'<sup>2</sup>.

Moreover, regional consultations conducted in 2012/13<sup>3</sup> recommended that 'the post-2015 goals should set a transformative agenda for Asia and the Pacific that highlights the need for gender to be assessed more comprehensively with more indicators on empowerment and violence against women'<sup>4</sup>. Further, findings of the 2012/13 regional consultations showed there was also broad consensus on the need to pursue inclusive economic prosperity, social equity and environmental responsibility.

The Rio+20 Summit called for the convening of a Third International Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which will be

held in Samoa, 1-4 September, 2014. This conference will provide an opportunity to further advance the gender equality agenda including the promotion of a stand-alone goal on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the post-2015 framework.

In preparation for the 2014 SIDS conference, a Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting was held in Fiji in July 2013, where delegates reaffirmed commitments to the principals and priorities of the Rio+20 Outcomes. The preparatory meeting provides an indication as to the key issues for the Pacific region on the post-2015 agenda: climate change; health; social development; governance; infrastructure; sustainable energy; oceans; international support for SIDS; sustainable resource management and protection; inclusive and sustainable economic management; and means of implementation and partnerships. It has been well noted that progress on these persisting issues is contingent on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.

In summary, it is critical that any new post 2015 framework retains a focus on gender equality through a stand-alone goal for the following reasons:

- To further drive change and to promote and monitor transformation in the structural determinants of gender-based inequality.
- Progress on all other goals is contingent on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. A stand-alone goal would ensure recognition of the instrumental role that gender plays in helping to bring about progress for everyone.

- The MDGs have been an important source of accountability for governments and civil society- the inclusion of a stand-alone goal and mainstreaming gender considerations into other goals has given visibility to gender equality issues ensuring governments can be accountable for advances.

### A stand-alone goal with three inter-related target areas

UN Women has proposed a stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment that is structured around three global target areas, namely: freedom from violence, gender equality in capabilities and resources, and gender equality in decision-making power and voice in public and private institutions. These three areas address inter-related dimensions of gender inequality<sup>5</sup>.

#### • Freedom from violence:

The great physical and psychological harm to women and girls is now well documented in the Pacific. It is recognized that this violence is a violation of human rights, constrains women's and girls' ability to fulfill their true potential, and carries great economic costs for them and for society. Therefore, it is imperative that concrete prevention and response actions must be a prerequisite for any future development agenda.

#### • Capabilities and resources:

The often skewed distribution of capabilities, such as knowledge, good health, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; as well as gender inequality in access to resources and opportunities, such as productive assets,

Table 1: Goal: Achieve Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment<sup>6</sup>

#### TARGET AREAS

##### Freedom from violence

- Prevent and respond to violence against women and girls
- Change perceptions, attitudes and behaviours that condone and justify violence against women
- Ensure security, support services and justice for women

##### Capabilities and resources

- Eradicate women's poverty
- Promote decent work for women
- Build women's access to, and control over, productive assets
- Reduce women's time burdens
- Promote education and skills for women and girls
- Improve women's and girls' health
- Reduce maternal mortality and ensure women's sexual & reproductive health and rights
- Ensure women's sustainable access to energy
- Ensure women's sustainable access to water and sanitation

##### Voice, Participation and Leadership

- Promote equal decision making in households
- Promote participation in public institutions
- Promote women's leadership in the private sector
- Strengthen women's collective action

including land, decent work and equal pay, constrain women's empowerment and need to be addressed with renewed urgency. These are the basic foundations for sustainable development and realizing human rights- consequently, it is imperative they are recognized in the post 2015 agenda.

**•Voice, Participation and Leadership:** The Pacific has the lowest rate of women's representation in national parliaments worldwide, with several PICTs having none or only one female MP at national level. It is imperative that the low numbers of women in public decision-making from national parliaments to local councils needs to be addressed to ensure that women's voices feature prominently in democratic institutions and public and private deliberations. The lack of voice in decision-making is also evident in key institutions influencing public opinion

and promoting accountability, such as the media and civil society and has its roots in unequal power relations in the family and community. This affects women's and girls' safety, economic and social security and choices, and voices in shaping public policy priorities.

### Measuring Progress: A way forward

UN Women has developed a set of global indicators that are designed to measure progress towards transformative change in gender relations. They are useful to monitor a stand-alone goal and the gender considerations in other goals. The illustrative indicators, that are based on global, regional and national evidence base and have been agreed internationally, can be found at [www.unwomen.org/focusareas/post-2015](http://www.unwomen.org/focusareas/post-2015).

spread of small populations; transitional societies with dual economies and justice systems; limited government reach; few transport or communication resources; and significant urbanization and out-migration. These challenges are compounded by the high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and extreme vulnerability to natural disasters. Recent armed conflicts (Papua New Guinea/ Bougainville and Solomon Islands) have had a profoundly negative impact and led to the normalisation of violence, especially violence against women.

Inequality and discrimination based on gender was recognized in the Millennium

Declaration as a significant factor undermining progress in many contexts. This recognition led to the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment (MDG 3). Progress on MDG3 in the Pacific is being measured by three targets: (i) gender parity in primary and secondary education; (ii) women's participation in the non-agricultural wage employment, and (iii) the number of seats held by women in parliament. In 2013, out of the 14 Pacific Island Countries, 9 were reported to have 'mixed results' on MDG3, two were 'off track' and only 3 were 'on track' towards meeting MDG3 targets (namely Cook Islands, Niue and Palau) (refer to Table 2).

## Progress on Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment( MDG3) in the Pacific Region

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) range from countries approaching 7 million, such as Papua New Guinea (PNG), to countries that host small populations on numerous outer islands or atolls, spread over large ocean spaces. PICTs contain huge linguistic, socio-economic, political and cultural diversity. The 2013 Human Development Index ranks one

PICT in the higher human development segment (Palau), six countries are the medium segment (Samoa, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga), and five in the low segment (Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, RMI, Nauru, Tuvalu)<sup>7</sup>.

PICTs experience complex development challenges that include the geographical

Table 2: Progress towards MDG 3<sup>8</sup>

	MDG 3 GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN	Gender disparity in primary and secondary education	Women in the non- agricultural sector	Seats held by women in parliament
Cook Islands	On track	On track	On track	On track
Federated States of Micronesia	Mixed	On track	Off track	Off track
Fiji	Mixed	On track	Off track	Off track
Kiribati	Mixed	On track	Off track	On track
Republic of the Marshall Islands	Mixed	On track	Off track	Off track
Nauru	Mixed	On track	-	Off track
Niue	On track	On track	On track	On track
Palau	On track	On track	Mixed	On track
PNG	Off track	Mixed	-	Off track
Samoa	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Off track
Solomon Islands	Off track	Off track	Off track	Off track
Tonga	Mixed	Mixed	Off track	Off track
Tuvalu	Mixed	On track	Off track	Off track
Vanuatu	Mixed	On track	Off track	Off track

On track Off track Mixed

## Gender parity on primary and secondary education levels.

The region is close to achieving gender parity on primary and secondary education levels. Four PICTs are within the range of actual gender parity in primary education – Palau, PNG, Solomon Islands and Tonga<sup>9</sup>. At the secondary level progress is being made with majority of PICTs achieving gender parity in education. However, Niue, PNG, Solomon Islands and Tonga, though, are not within the 3 percent range of achieving gender parity<sup>10</sup>. From this indicator alone, progress on MDG3 has been positive despite the fact there are concerns about the quality of education for girls and boys.

## Women's participation in non-agricultural wage employment.

A lack of progress in gender equality is evident from the data regarding women's participation in non-agricultural wage employment. According to the PIFS 2013 MDG Tracking Report, the majority of

PICTs reported less than 50 percent of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. This implies that the gains in women's educational equality across the region have not yet resulted in a substantial improvement in their share of wage employment.

In Pacific countries, women are more likely than men to be informal workers – a consequence of their limited skills, restricted mobility and biased gender norms. Even where participation has risen, there are concerns over pay disparities. In addition, women have the load of unpaid domestic work to which they devote large amounts of time and energy.

This indicator used for MDG tracking captures only one dimension of women's economic activity. The Women's Economic Opportunity Index<sup>11</sup>, below, provides a more comprehensive picture of women's economic participation. The value of this approach is that the Index incorporates factors which are crucial for an enabling environment, such as maternity leave and ownership of land and property.

Women's Economic Opportunity Index		
Countries	Global Ranking/128	2012 Score/100
Fiji	81	48.8
Samoa	99	41.7
Vanuatu	106	39.1
Tonga	110	38.5
Solomon Islands	124	29.2
PNG	125	26.6

## Solomon Islands: Making Strides to get 'On Track'

The Government of Solomon Islands, with the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and UNFPA, oversaw the national Family Health and Support Study, which assessed the prevalence of intimate partner and sexual violence. It found that violence against women in the Solomon Islands, 64% of ever-partnered women experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Women are also more likely to experience severe forms of physical violence from their partners, including punching, kicking or having a weapon used against them. One in two ever-partnered women reported being raped by their partners<sup>14</sup>.

Currently Solomon Islands are 'off track' on most of the MDG targets, including MDG3. Although close to gender parity in primary school, Solomon Islands has significant gender gaps at secondary and tertiary education levels. Solomon Islands relies largely on a subsistence agricultural economy and there are few women entering the non-agricultural sector. Women are severely under-represented in political and government institutions with only one woman currently in parliament.

As a result of these indicators of gender inequality the government has committed to promote gender equality and end violence against women at the highest level. The government now has a strong policy framework for addressing gender equality and a national policy and action plan for eliminating violence against women. UN Women is joining with UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP in the context of a UN Joint Programme to support implementation of the VAW policy and action plan.

Fiji has the highest overall score of the six PICTs included in the 2012 Index, but performs below the global average in every category and on most indicators. PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu place mostly in the bottom quintile. PNG and Solomon Islands were in the bottom five, above only Yemen, Chad and Sudan<sup>12</sup>.

### Percentage of parliamentarians who are women.

The MDGs do not specify a goal or a target in regards to women's political participation. However, one indicator captures the percentage of parliamentarians who are women. In this area progress in the region remains poor. The Pacific has the lowest rate of women's representation in national parliaments worldwide, with several PICTs having none or only one female MP at national level, and low levels of representation in local level government. Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu currently have no women in their parliaments. Federated States of Micronesia remains one of the

three countries in the world which have never elected a woman to national political office. According to the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat even when women are elected to Pacific parliaments, they are in such small numbers that they are unable to influence parliament in favour of gender equality without support from the male majority.

The reasons for the underrepresentation of women are manifold, an important one being that the majority of the electoral systems being used seem to have a gender bias. Also cultural stereotypes create obstacles, which largely exclude women from political participation at all levels.

While many Pacific countries have made significant progress in fostering gender equality in education, by and large, the MDGs have not delivered on gender equality. The Pacific region is still a long way from achieving gender equality despite the successes in achieving gender parity at the two educational levels. Some of the worst forms of gender discrimination still occur in the region and women often have little legal protection against gender-

MDG 3: Seats held by Women in Parliament (%) <sup>13</sup>			
Niue	15.0	RMI	3.0
Kiribati	8.7	PNG	2.7
Tuvalu	6.7	Solomon Is	2.0
Samoa	6.1	FSM	0
Nauru	5.3	Palau	3
Cook Is	4.2	Vanuatu	0
Tonga	3.6	Fiji	n/a

based violence. Unfortunately, widespread discrimination often restricts women's access to economic opportunities and political participation, as well as health and education services.

Despite the overall slow and mixed progress, the MDGs have widened the space for debate for civil society movements in the region. In fact the women's movement has used the limitations of the MDGs to advance a broader social justice agenda.

## Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: An Unfinished Agenda

While tracking progress on three targets areas under MDG3 is important, it has not been sufficient to capture other important areas of progress on gender equality. These include violence against women and girls, gender-based wage discrimination, women's disproportionate share of unpaid care work, women's limited asset and property ownership, and unequal participation in public and private decision-making.

Without attention to these issues, there is an ongoing risk that gender-based differences in power and resources that block the realization of women's rights are rendered invisible, and the structural causes of gender-based discrimination will remain unchanged. Participants in the regional consultations<sup>16</sup> reinforced this view and called for a new development agenda, which is transformative and addresses the structural inequalities and discrimination including gender inequality, that hinder progress and sustainable development.

Arguably the most alarming, and indeed life threatening, manifestations of gender inequality and discrimination in PICTs is that of violence against women and girls. The prevalence of such violence in the Pacific is among the highest in the world. There is now high quality, comprehensive and internationally comparable data, which presents irrefutable and alarming evidence of the high prevalence and severity of violence against women and girls both by intimate partners and by strangers. According to recent population based surveys, almost two in three Pacific women reported having experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their spouse/partner during their lifetime - an extremely high rate by world standards. This is a demonstration of gender inequality that seriously inhibits the ability of women and girls to enjoy rights and freedoms on the basis of equality with men and boys.

The population survey findings on the



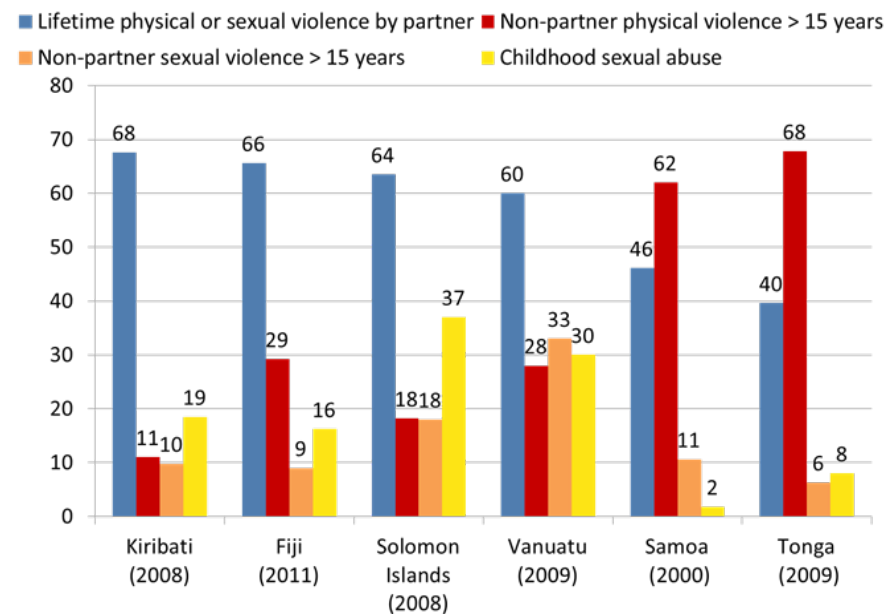
## On the Ground: High level action to address violence against women and girls in Kiribati

The Kiribati Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs, with the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and UNFPA, oversaw the national Family Health and Support Study, which assessed the prevalence of intimate partner and sexual violence. It found that 73% of Kiribati women aged 15-49 had experienced some form of violence in their lives. In 80% of cases the perpetrator was a former or current partner. Only 21% of survivors sought help from formal support services. The study also found that the survivors are seven times more likely to have children who are also abused.

It was these findings that spurred policy action and resulted in government commitment to end violence against women at the highest level. In 2011, the government adopted a 10-year National Approach to Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2011-2021). The Kiribati Child, Young People, and Family Welfare Act and pending Family Peace Bill will strengthen the legal framework to address violence against women and girls. However, as a least developed small island nation with roughly 100,000 inhabitants spread across a vast ocean area it faces enormous development challenges.

In response to these alarming figures, the government of Kiribati prepared a national policy and action plan to respond and prevent violence against women and girls, and UN Women is partnering with UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNDP to advance a UN Joint Programme to support implementation of the policy and action plan, leveraging the UN's technical and financial resources.

## Prevalence (%) and Patterns of Violence against Women (15-49) in Pacific Islands Countries



emotional and physical consequences of violence are disturbing and call for immediate action. The Vanuatu National Survey on Women's Lives and Family Relationships (2011), for example, presents evidence of significant emotional distress and risk of suicide for survivors, which affects a woman's ability to live and work at her full potential.

The economic costs of violence against women and girls are high, which, in turn, increase the costs of health care, social services, and policing. Services for survivors are limited, and virtually non-existent in remote areas. Women and girls living in remote areas have virtually no access to services which could provide help. This issue is particularly acute in

the Pacific context, where 80% of Pacific Islanders live in rural areas or on outer islands.

A 2013 UN Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific<sup>17</sup> paints a disturbing picture about men's violence and their attitudes towards women. The study found that the 'proportion of ever-partnered men who reported ever having perpetrated physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime was 80% in Papua New Guinea-Bougainville; in most countries, it was 30-57% and a staggering 62% of men interviewed reported perpetrating some form of rape against a woman or girl in their lifetime.

## Unprecedented Commitment from Pacific Governments and Civil Society to Address Gender Inequalities

In spite of progress on MDGs in the Pacific being slow, there is an unprecedented commitment and momentum to promote gender equality across the region. This is largely due to high level commitments from Pacific Island Forum leaders, increased availability of data, and the development of specific legislation and policies on gender equality and gender based violence.

In the Pacific the mandate to dramatically increase efforts to promote gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment has never been as clear and urgent.

Evidence of Pacific leaders' commitment to gender equality was apparent with the issue of a Gender Equality Declaration (GED) during the 2012 annual Pacific Island Forum Leaders meetings where dialogue identified how progress on all MDGs is contingent on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. Leaders agreed that 'gender inequality is imposing a high personal, social and economic cost on Pacific people and nations, and that improved gender equality will make a significant contribution to creating a prosperous, stable and secure Pacific for all current and future generations'<sup>18</sup>.

In 2012, the Pacific leaders committed to 'supporting women's political representation, including by: strengthening consultative mechanisms with civil society groups on key budget and policy issues; advocating for increased representation of women in the private sector and local level governance boards and committees; and considering specific legislative changes to allow temporary special measures such as reserved seats'<sup>19</sup>.

Leaders also committed to ensuring that a gender analysis is factored into sustainable development discussions, country programming, and policy decisions.

All but two Pacific Island countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and all have adopted the Pacific Platform of Action (localizing the Beijing Platform for Action - BPFA) and the Millennium Declaration, 2000, which together established that it is a state responsibility to take all appropriate measures to address pervasive gender disparities. Some governments have responded by advancing legislation, policies, special temporary measure, and National Action Plans on ending violence against women and girls.

In 2013, Pacific countries further demonstrated an unprecedented commitment through their active participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 57), resulting in strong international agreements on how States can best address this issue. In preparation for CSW 57 UN Women hosted seven national consultations in Pacific countries and findings of these consultations demonstrated a growing recognition by governments and civil society organizations on the gaps and how to bridge them. Overall, CSW 57 was regarded as a unique opportunity to Pacific delegations in advancing the gender equality agenda. CSW 58 is focused on reviewing the post-2015 development agenda, and a stand-alone goal in the post 2015 development agenda will be high on the agenda for the delegates.

What needs to be done has been agreed; the challenge involves turning commitments into action. The important role of a civil society in responding to and preventing VAWG is well recognized. For decades women's organizations across the Pacific have been advocating for gender equality and women's rights.

Despite these advances, implementation of commitments remains limited, in part due to limited capacity in government around gender equality and women's human rights, and in part due to lack of measurable commitments. Lack of implementation is further compounded by the existence of dual legal systems based on codified customary laws, and none of the Pacific Islands countries have extra-territorial legislation (for example, to allow cross-country prosecution for sexual violence).

## UN Women's Response

The heightened commitment to promote gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment is evidenced by the sharp rise in demand for UN Women's expertise in the region. Pacific governments, civil society organizations, and intergovernmental agencies and development partners are increasingly requesting UN Women's support. In response to this growing demand UN Women is currently implementing a comprehensive programme in 14 PICTs countries.

In partnership with Pacific Islands Governments, civil society, donors and UN agencies, the regional programme is focused on four interlinked programmes:

- (i) gender justice;
- (ii) ending violence against women;
- (iii) women's economic empowerment and
- (iv) gender, climate change and disaster risk management.

The programme adopts a wide range of strategies and measures to increase government leadership and the development, adoption and implementation of laws, policy and budgetary commitment, and extensive support to civil society organisations.

In summary, while many Pacific countries have made significant progress in fostering gender equality in education, by and large, the MDGs have not delivered on gender equality. The case for a stand-alone goal in the post 2015 framework has never been



more compelling in the Pacific region with an unprecedented commitment from all PICTs to take action to advance the gender equality agenda. A sustained and more comprehensive approach in the post 2015 framework is urgently needed to meet our collective responsibility for advancing women's rights.

The centrality of gender in achieving all MDGs was well noted in the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat 2013 MDG Tracking report which states that PICTs 'are unable to reach their full potential when half their citizens face discrimination, limited economic opportunities, restricted

contribution to decision making, and high levels of violence and abuse. Therefore, gender issues are central to the achievement of all the MDGs.'

A stand-alone goal on gender equality would target transformation in women's and men's lives in three areas: freedom from violence, gender equality in capabilities and resources, and gender equality in decision-making power and voice in public and private institutions. In order to meet Pacific regional commitments to sustainable development, human rights, and peace and security, achieving gender equality is critical.

This note has been prepared as a compliment to a UN Women corporate position paper that presents the international evidence base, a full list of indicators, and recommendations for enabling frameworks and policy pathways.

This paper is available at [www.unwomen.org/focusareas/post-2015](http://www.unwomen.org/focusareas/post-2015).

## References

- 1 For more information on the evidence base refer to UN Women's Paper: A Transformative Stand Alone-alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components.
- 2 Recommendations and Outcomes of the 12th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women. Cook Islands (October 2013), hosted by Secretariat of the Pacific Community.
- 3 Regional consultations were conducted as part of the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional MDGs Report 2012/13.
- 4 The Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda, Asia-Pacific Regional MDGs Report 2012-13, prepared by ESCAP/ADB/UNDP recommended that the gender equality goal area should cover: (i) women's rights as workers and holders of economic assets; (ii) education; (iii) rights and participation of women in situations of conflict and transition to peace; (iv) sexual and reproductive health and rights; (v) advancing women's agency and participation in political life (national and local governments); and (vi) elimination of all forms of gender-based violence.
- 5 The three inter-related goals are taken from UN Women's Paper: A Transformative Stand Alone-alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components.
- 6 Table 1 is extracted from UN Women's Policy Paper: A Transformative Stand Alone-alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components.
- 7 Data was not available for Tokelau and Cook Islands.
- 8 Information captured from the 2013 Pacific regional MDGs tracking report prepared by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2013 and the 2012 Pacific Regional MDG Tracking Report.
- 9 2013 Pacific regional MDGs tracking report prepared by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Suva, Fiji: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2013.
- 10 Data at the tertiary level is not available.
- 11 The Women's Economic Opportunity Index assesses a range of underlying

factors affecting women's economic opportunities in the formal sector in five areas: labour policy and practice, access to finance, education and training, women's legal and social status, and general business environment.

- 12 This information is extracted from the 2013 Pacific regional MDGs tracking report prepared by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Suva, Fiji: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2013.
- 13 Source: 2013 Pacific regional MDGs tracking report prepared by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Suva, Fiji: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2013.
- 14 Date Source: 2009 Family Health and Safety Study: Solomon Island (Secretariat of the Pacific Community and UNFPA)
- 15 UNFPA
- 16 Refer to the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional MDGs Report 2012/13
- 17 UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, UN Volunteers (2013). Why do Some Men Use Violence against Women and How Can we prevent it. Partners for Prevention; A regional joint UN programme for gender-based violence prevention in Asia and the Pacific.
- 18 Forum Communique 43rd, Pacific Island Forum , Cook Islands, 28 – 30 August 2012 (PIFS)
- 19 Forum Communique 43rd, Pacific Island Forum , Cook Islands, 28 – 30 August 2012 (PIFS)

UN Women is the UN organisation dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: Increasing women's leadership and participation; Ending violence against women; Engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; Enhancing women's economic empowerment; and Making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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