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|  | **Solomon Islands Government Response towards the 89 Supported recommendations** | | | |
|  | **ISSUE** | **RECOMMENDATION** | **POSITION** | **CURRENT STATUS/PROGRESS** |
| **1** | 2.1 Acceptance of International norms  Domestication of Conventions | **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its three supplementary protocols (99.1, 99.2, 99.3)**  Progress on domestic child protection legislation and to ensure that the rights of children are protected by codifying the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the national legislation and ratify the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,   * Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography - (Australia), (Uruguay), (Panama), (Germany) * Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict - (Uruguay) (Switzerland), (Germany) * Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure - (Uruguay) | Supported | The Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) passed by parliament, but not yet enforced; is in alignment with the provisions of CRC.  The Act addresses the following:   * Welfare and protection of children * Establishment of social services, and referral mechanism for children in need of care and protection. * Prohibits the sale and exploitation of Children for labour, prostitution and pornography. * Provides for the prosecution of Child perpetrators   Solomon Islands signed but not ratified 2 of the 3 CRC OPs namely:   * Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography * Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. * The National Advisory and Action Committee on Children (NAACC) is working with all stakeholders to domesticate and calculate the costs of ratifying the 2 optional protocols to the existing legislations and frameworks and ratifying the third CRC OP (on a Communications Procedure) |
| **2** | 2.1 Acceptance of Int'l norms | **Addressing the Rights of Person with Disabilities and Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (100.24, 100.25, 100.26, 100.27, and 100.28,100.73,100.74,100.75)**  Take further measures to ensure persons with disabilities enjoy their rights, improving physical access for PWD, develop a national policy for PWD and Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. (Algeria), (France), (Slovenia), (Panama), (Israel), (Republic of Korea) (Philippines), (Ghana), (Mexico), (Germany), (Trinidad & Tobago) and (Israel) | Supported | * Solomon Islands is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD * Draft National Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2020-2024 is in place and incorporates principles of the CRPD. * National Disability Working Group is working on a number of priorities including offering trainings to stakeholders to improve lives of PWD * Undertake cost benefit analysis on ratifying the CRPD and its Optional protocol. * Support the National Disability Policy to enable Person with disabilities access Public education system * Support three provincial rehabilitation centres and disability schools two on Guadalcanal Province, and a third in Makira Province with a fourth located in the Capital. * Work towards developing a national framework to ensure there is proper physical access for persons with disabilities to all public facilities |
| **3** | 3.1 Coop with treaty bodies | **Submission of Human Rights treaty bodies reports on the Convention of the Rights of the Child (99.8, 99.9).**  ●Submit its overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);  ● Present, before the next review, the combined report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Uruguay); | Supported | * The Government is committed to honour its Human rights reporting obligations. * Given the country's limited resources and competing national priorities, meeting its reporting obligations remains a challenge. * The Government is in the process of finalising its 4th periodic CEDAW report. The report will be submitted by the end of 2021. * Solomon Islands submitted its combined CRC 2nd & 3rd periodic report in 2016, next CRC cycle report is due in 2023. * The establishment of a proposed National Human Rights Institution to coordinate Solomon Islands HR reporting would be ideal and a permanent solution. |
| **4** | 3.3 Coop with int'l mechanism & institutions | 99.5 Seek the required technical assistance in order to meet its various human rights obligations (Sierra Leone); | Supported | * Building national capacity is a major priority of the government having said this partnership remains an important pillar in meeting the country’s national HR obligation. * SIG continue to prefer national technical assistance are sourced nationally. * Australian Government– Technical support to Women’s Development Division * OHCHR – Technical assistance and trainings * SPC-RRRT- Financial support for consultations and Technical assistance * UNICEF - provided TAs and support to the Children Development Division * UNDP – provided TAs, and support to the Government ministries. * UN Women - TAs to Women Development Division: * SAFENET referral pathway for victims of violence * GBV awareness   More support is needed to collect data to MRV HR obligations |
| **5** | 4. Inter-state coop & development assistance | 99.4 Carry out training activities and exchange of experiences on human rights with other countries of the Pacific Islands (Cuba); | Supported | * At regional level, from 2016-2019, HR regional workshops were conducted by the OHCHR Fiji Office and SPC- Regional Rights Resource Team to exchange HR experiences. * At national level, National Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM) provides training courses for Public Service officials on Human rights. * South-South Study cooperation between Solomon Islands and Kiribati, Kiribati undertook a country study visit to view Solomon Islands SAFENET referral rollout in 2018 and 2019 |
| **6** | 5.1 Constitutional & legislative framework | 100.61 Reform the Penal Code with a provision encompassing the definition and criminalization of all forms of sexual violence, including rape (Sierra Leone); | Supported | * Reform of the Penal Code with provisions to criminalize all forms of sexual violence under the Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act of 2016 is in place. * Define all forms of sexual violence * Perpetrator proven guilty receive jail terms ranging from 15 - 25 years to life imprisonment. |
| **7** | 5.1 Constitutional & legislative framework | 100.44 Ensure that national laws are in line with international human rights standards (Philippines); | Supported | * Solomon Islands constitution (1978) is the supreme law of the country, lists the Rights of Solomon Islands nationals. * Constitution is supported by domestic laws: * Constitution (Amendment) (Dual Citizenship) Act 2018 * Family Protection Act 2014 * Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 * Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016 |
| **8** | 5.2 Institutions & policies | (99.7and 100.45) Continue to work closely with international human rights institutions (Pakistan); (Nigeria) | Supported | * Partnerships between Solomon Islands National Advisory Committee on CEDAW (SINACC) and the National Advisory and Action Committee on Children (NAACC) together with civil society and UN Agencies is the approach being adopted * Non state actors provide needed technical advises and resources to strengthen implementation and enforcement of the country's national HR Laws and policies. * SIG is also working closely with OHCHR and SPC-RRRT. |
| **9** | 5.2 Institutions & policies | **Establishment of a National Human Rights Institution (100.46,100.47,100.48 and 100.50)**  Take all the necessary measures to establish an independent national human rights institution with “A” status, in accordance with the Paris Principles (New Zealand, Portugal, and Chile) and setting up a national human rights commission in line with the proposal of the 2014 draft Constitution (Nigeria) | Supported | * In 2019 scoping study was under taken by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children, and Family Affairs recommended the option of setting up a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI). * A concept paper is in place to establish a HR reporting mechanism, this was done 2019 * Lack of dedicated resources has stalled progress in translating the mechanism into action. |
| **10** | 5.2 Institutions & policies | **Increase the mandates of existing institutions such as the Ombudsman’s Office and the Leadership Code Commission, to address human rights issues and to address complaints by women about discrimination (Jamaica), (Canada) (100.49, and 100.51)** | Supported | * Solomon Islands Integrity Institutions uphold human rights and good governance. * The institutions are supported by law to combat Human Rights violation, maladministration and corruption. * These institutions include the Ombudsman Office, the Leadership Code Commission and the Anti – Corruption Commission * The Ombudsman Office is provided for under Section 97 (1) & (2) of the Constitution. * The Leadership Code Commission is established under the Leadership Code (Further Provisions) Act 1999 (LCFPA). Enforcement is through investigation, prosecution and adjudication of misconduct allegations and HR violations by Leaders and public servants. * Anti-Corruption Commission mandated by the Anti-Corruption Act 2018. The Anti –Corruption Commission compliments the roles of the Ombudsman Office and the Leadership Code Commission.   Proposal of increasing and broadening the mandates of these integrity institutions are not pursued as yet. |
| **11** | 5.2 Institutions & policies | 100.52 Incorporate human rights and the needs for their implementation and funding in its National Development Strategy (Cuba); | Supported | * The National Development Strategy (2016 -2035) includes components of human rights: * Right to sustainable development, * Right to education, right to health, right to water and the right to survive with the impact of climate change |
| **12** | 5.2 Institutions & policies | **National Human Rights action plan and the national follow-up system for monitoring international HR recommendations (100.53, 100.54)**  National Human Rights action plan (Indonesia)  National follow-up system for monitoring international HR recommendations (Paraguay) | Supported | * The NDS (2016 -2035) was formulated to ensure that the rights and needs of the general populace are protected. * Solomon Islands does not have a human rights national action plan, however the Government has in place National policies and action plans on Women, Youth, Gender and Children * The establishment of a National Human Rights Institution is being proposed of which will defend and promote human rights |
| **13** | 6. Human rights education & training | 100.55 Consider developing a broad programme on human rights which includes training and capacity-building for the public sector (Egypt); | Supported | * The Solomon Islands Public Service has adopted a Public Service Transformation Strategy to sensitize Human rights into public service. * A Gender and Human Rights training manual was developed and institutionalised by the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM). * The University of the South Pacific (USP) in partnership with the Government, has offered Diploma in Human Rights and Leadership course for public officers. |
| **14** | 8. Non-discrimination | 100.43 Ensure that those laws related to acquisition, transmission, conserving and loss of nationality are in line with the principle of non-discrimination (Paraguay); | Supported | * The Constitution (Amendment) (Dual Citizenship) Act 2018 was passed by Parliament which is now in force. The Act allows equal right of men and women to acquire Solomon Islands citizenship |
| **15** | 12.7 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking | (100.65, 100.66, 99.44, 100.67)Pass a law to criminalize all forms of human trafficking and ratify the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (United States of America) and (Egypt); (Trinidad and Tabargo) and (Spain) | Supported | * The Immigration Act 2012 has provisions that addresses Human trafficking. * Act defines all forms of sexual violence * A National Action Plan on Trafficking is in place * Work is in progress to access Solomon Islands to be a Party to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNCTOC) and its supplementary protocols. * The Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016 was enacted to also address trafficking in Persons. * To date, three cases of commercial sexual exploitation have been reported. One has led to conviction and two are before the court. |
| **16** | 12.7 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking | 100.63 Implement measures to punish traffickers and prevent child prostitution and forced marriage (Australia); | Supported | * Reform of the Penal Code with provisions to criminalize all forms of sexual violence under the Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act of 2016 is in place. * The Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offenses) Act 2016, penalises sexual offenders with imprisonment of 15-25years or life imprisonment for serious cases. * Provisions within the Immigration Act 2012 also penalises traffickers who engages in child prostitution and forced marriage for the purposes of obtaining money. |
| **17** | 16. Right to an effective remedy, impunity | **Addressing Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (99.45, 99.47)**  Establish an independent body to monitor and promote human rights, including progress made on the Truth and Reconciliation Committee’s recommendations with regard to abuses committed during the Tensions (Australia);  Pursue efforts to guarantee the effective functioning of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (France); | Supported | * The government has established a dedicated institution to deal with National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace. * The mandate of the Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs (MTGPEA) is to; address and promote peace and reconciliation, post-conflict rehabilitation, truth and reconciliation programs, and national unity programs. * Truth and Reconciliation Commission report has been through Parliament in 2014 and is dealt with by the relevant government Ministry. * A National Peace Building Policy is in place to address the root causes of conflict in Solomon Islands. |
| **18** | 16. Right to an effective remedy, impunity | 99.46 Increase the access of the rural population to the formal justice system (Trinidad and Tobago); | Supported | * The Government is committed to ensure the populace has access to Justice and adequate legal services. * Paralegal officers are attached to provinces that have existing court buildings. * Court circuit tours are conducted to districts that do not have court infrastructure * The Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs continue to invest in establishing court infrastructures in the provinces namely in Gizo and Seghe (Western Province), Auki and Atori (Malaita Province), Lata (Temotu Province) and KiraKira (Makira Ulawa Province). * Access to Justice project is in place to ensure every provinces have a fully functional court available to all |
| **19** | 18. Right to participate in public affairs & right to vote | **Take Measures to increase women’s participation in public and political life, decision-making positions**  99.26 Take effective measures to increase women’s participation in public and political life as well as in the labour market, in particular considering temporary special measures such as statutory quotas or incentives (Republic of Korea);  99.27 Intensify efforts to facilitate the participation of women in political and public affairs (Argentina  99.28 Continue its efforts to facilitate greater participation and representation of women in public offices and in higher levels of decision-making positions (Israel);  99.29 Take further steps to increase participation by women in Parliament, and in government leadership positions, including through further consideration of temporary special measures (New Zealand); | Supported | * Currently, there were (four) 4 elected women MPs within 49 seat of the 11th Parliament. * The National Government supports legislative reforms to address and promote women’s political representation in Provincial Assemblies. * The Policy proposes a special temporary measures to increase the numbers of women leaders’ participation. * The Ministry of Public Service has a ‘women in leadership mentoring program’ that provides for equal participation of women and men in the Public Service, the program is part of the Public Service Transformation Strategy (PSTS) 2017-2021. |
| **20** | 21. Economic, social & cultural rights - general measures to implement | 99.12 Continue efforts to guarantee access to girls, boys, women and persons with disabilities to health services, education services, drinking water and sanitation (Mexico); | Supported | * The National Health Strategy Policy 2016-2020 – provides for universal coverage of basic health care for all * About 94% of women aged 15–49 who had a live birth received antenatal care (ANC) from a skilled provider * The National Health Strategy Policy 2016-2020, and the RWASH strategic plan ensure access to clean water and proper sanitation for all citizens throughout the country. * The National Education Inclusive Development Policy (2015-2020) - strengthens inter-sectoral collaboration between special schools for PWD and regular education. * It is a requirement for schools to have proper sanitary facilities before it can be registered to operate in the country by Ministry of Education and Human Resources (MEHRD) through its Inspectorate Division. |
| **21** | 22.1 Right to an adequate standard of living - general | 99.48 Continue making progress in eradicating poverty, through the application of their social policies aimed at increasing the living standards of its people, in particular the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); | Supported | * Objective 2 of the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2035, addresses poverty alleviation across the whole of the Solomon Islands, improving food security ; and to ensure the benefits of development be more equitably distributed * The NDS 2016-2035 is aligned with the principles of the SAMOA PATHWAY, Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and the 17 SDGs. * Solomon Islands submitted its Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the SDGs in July 2020. * The VNR report is presented through the lens of the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy (“NDS 2016 – 2035”), which localize the SDG |
| **22** | 22.6 Human rights & drinking water & sanitation | **Right to Health, Water and Sanitation (99.49, 99.50)**  Rights to water and sanitation (Spain)  Improve access to health services (Trinidad and Tobago) | Supported | ●The National Health Strategy Policy 2016-2020, and the RWASH strategic plan addresses the need to ensure Solomon Islanders have adequate access to clean water and proper sanitation.   * According to the National Health Core Indicator Report (2018) – 54% of the population have access to safe drinking water, and only 13% have proper sanitation. * The National Health Strategy Policy 2016-2020 and the National Role Delineation Policy – ensure universal health service and coverage throughout the country. |
| **23** | 25. Right to education | **Addressing the Right to Education for all citizens.**  99.54 Increase support for families to facilitate the pursuance by children of primary and secondary education (Trinidad and Tobago);  100.70 Step up efforts to ensure that primary education is compulsory as well as free of charge, and improve the capacity of all educational institutions, importantly through the increase of budget allocations towards education (Republic of Korea);  100.71 Make primary education compulsory, ensuring particularly the inclusion of girls and persons with disabilities in the educational system (Spain);  99.51 Strengthen the education system to reduce gender disparity and improve the education standard throughout the country (Maldives);  99.52 Take the necessary steps to improve education infrastructure with the aim of ensuring girls’ access to school (Armenia);  99.53 Permit and encourage female students to return to formal education after giving birth, in keeping with the recommendation made during the review of the Education Act (Jamaica); | Supported | * Primary education is free and compulsory, the phasing out of year six examination is to improve access to junior secondary school for all children. * Provisions on compulsory education is in the Education Bill, * The Government continues to implement a fee-free basic education policy from Year 1-9 by allocating substantive funding grants to schools, however individual schools continue charge financial contributions for maintenance costs. * Second Chance Education Policy: * Permits and encourage female students to return to formal education after giving birth * Consultations were conducted, to ensure that secondary schools implement the second chance education policy. Some schools are already practicing the reintegration of pregnant girls * Alternate pathway is offered in the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) for second chance Education * To avoid non-discrimination within the education sector, non-discrimination provisions within the new education bill. The National Constitution also prohibits discrimination. * The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development through the Basic Education Inclusive Policy addresses the following: * Advocates and conducts awareness on gender, to improve girls’ access to education and also for Persons with Disabilities. * Developed infrastructure projects for schools. * Ensure that that PWD have proper access in schools. * WASH projects in 22 schools across 9 provinces and built 8 girls dormitories and 8 ablution blocks in 2019-2020. |
| **24** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 100.42 Repeal all legislation incompatible with the principle of equality and non-discrimination, including provisions of customary law, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia); | Supported | * In 2017, the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission - Completed a Report with recommendations on the Administration of Justice Offences which is part of the review of the Penal Code. * Recommendations to change parts of the Penal Code includes:  1. obstruction of justice through perjury, inconsistent or contradictory statements, false accusations, corroboration, false statements made outside judicial proceedings, fabricating and destroying evidence, interfering with witnesses and protection of witnesses and others, perversion of the course of justice and related offences, proceedings other than judicial proceedings, felonies and misdemeanours. 2. It also contains revised penalties for offences within these areas.  * The Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016 is in compliance to CEDAW principles by advancing Article 2 through;  1. Redefining the key terms to be more comprehensive and pragmatic of different situations pertaining to sexual offenses and various sentencing penalties. 2. Strengthening provisions for ‘rape’ to be inclusive of different situations where rape occurs, aligning the definition to international best practises.  * The Constitution (Amendment) (Dual Citizenship) Act 2018: Allows Solomon Islands nationals to have a dual citizenship with another country and vice versa. * On-going consultations on the Traditional Governance and Customs Facilitation Bill. These include specific sessions with women and girls and persons with disabilities. * Key recommendations include women’s equal participation and representation with men in traditional governance structures, procedures and processes. * ●Customary Land recording: * The Government through Ministry of Lands Housing and survey is currently conducting consultations in Malaita, Guadalcanal and Western Provinces to develop by-laws for a governance mechanism for land holding groups. |
| **25** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.24 Take measures to ensure non-discrimination against women within all sectors of society, particularly with regard to access to education and employment, and to amend and align all existing laws in this regard (Namibia);  99.21 Strengthen strategies that are aimed at increasing gender equality and the economic empowerment of women (Nigeria); | Supported | * ●The National Strategy on the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls (NSEEWG) 2015-2019. * Provides strategies to improve the economic status and empowerment of women and girls including employment opportunities. * 116 Savings Clubs were established by MWYCFA across 9 provinces of Solomon Islands. * The Savings clubs provide women with assistance to save, access to loans, training on financial literacy and budgeting, financial capacity to establish small businesses, and enhancement of social; cohesion and social capital. * Work to sustain Savings Clubs is supported by Central Bank of Solomon Islands.   ●The Solomon Islands Public Service is the largest employer in the country, with a responsibility to ensure workplace practices are equitable, fair and set an example for other employers throughout the country.   * Women represents 44% of the workforce. * The Ministry of Public Service has developed a Draft Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy, which aims at addressing gender inequality throughout the Public Service particularly to address components of the Labour Acts and other related Acts and workplace policies   ●The Ministry of Public Service has a strategic aim to sensitise gender in governance, through this;   * Prioritise the implementation of a ‘women in leadership mentoring program’ across the Public Service. * Strengthening of the positions of Gender Focal Points in each Ministry which involve post-graduate training in gender studies * Inclusion of performance indicators on gender mainstreaming in the contracts of Permanent Secretaries of all ministries.   ●Solomon Islands has seen an increase intake of labour mobility programs with New Zealand’s Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) program, and the Australian Seasonal Workers Program (SWP).  ●The establishment of the **National Provident Fund YouSave program in 2018,** aims to provide long-term savings scheme and retirement fund targeting workers in the informal economy.   * The YouSave program addresses poverty amongst vulnerable people and particularly those working in the informal sector. |
| **26** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.23 Develop a concrete action plan to encourage and support women’s active involvement in economic and political life, including effective measures to increase women’s involvement in the economy and formal political institutions by addressing existing legal, social, and cultural barriers (United States of America); | Supported | * ●The GEWD (Gender Equality and Women’s Development) Policy 2016-2020 sets out an action plan to implement the following outcome; * Improved economic status of women * Equal participation of men and women at all levels of decision-making, governance and leadership.   ●Measures to increase women’s economic participation by Ministry of Women, Youth, Children, and Family Affairs includes the establishment of:   * Savings clubs, * Financial literacy and Entrepreneurship trainings, * Provision of grants for income-generating projects for women’s groups across the country * Provide life skills trainings   ●Measures to increase women’s participation in politics include supporting Provincial Governments intention to incorporate provisions on Temporary Special Measures for women in Provincial Assemblies in the revised Provincial Government Act 1997. |
| **27** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.22 Take steps towards the effective implementation of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Women’s Development and the National Policy on Ending Violence against Women, through coordination, advocacy, awareness-raising and resource allocation (Canada); | Supported | ●The Women's Development Division (WDD) is responsible for the oversight, coordination, monitoring and reporting of the Gender Equality and Women’s Development (GEWD) Policy and the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Policy.  ●To ensure effective coordination of the policies, the following coordination mechanisms has been established:   * The GEWD National Stakeholders Taskforce (NST) meets once a year to strengthen coordination including providing updates on the implementation progress of the GEWD and EVAWG Policies. * Awareness and trainings on the GEWD and EVAWG Policy is on-going across the whole country led by the Women's Development Division (WDD) and its relevant stakeholders. |
| **28** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.30 Conduct awareness raising and sensitization programmes to empower women, advance women’s rights and ensure gender equality (Maldives);  99.16 Combat stereotypes regarding the role of women, in particular by sensitizing the population in rural areas (Argentina);  99.17 Promote a culture of equality through equal participation of all members of society and particularly the participation of women in rural areas (Morocco);  99.20 Increase gender equality (Cyprus); | Supported | ●The Women’s Development Division (WDD) provides on-going awareness and gender sensitising programs under the different thematic areas of the Gender Equality and Women’s Development (GEWD) Policy. Programs delivered as part of the WDD annual work plans include;   * Awareness and advocacy sessions during international events such as the International Women’s Day, International Day of Rural Women and the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against gender based violence. * Approximately 9 awareness programs were conducted in 2018 through the MWYCFA Savings Clubs Programs * Approximately 12 awareness programs were conducted in 2019. * Annual IPAM awareness sessions on the Family Protection Act 2014   ●In May 2018, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children, and Family Affairs worked with the Ministry of Public Service, the Institute of Public Administration, and the Australian High Commission to deliver a Gender Mainstreaming and Sensitization Workshop for Human Resource Managers and Gender Focal points in the Public Service.   * Approximately 46 public service officers attended the workshop.   ●Majority of awareness programs conducted by MWYCFA is done at the rural and community levels. Participants includes women and girls and the respective Provincial Women Desk Officers whose role to engage with women’s groups and individuals. |
| **29** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.18 Do not discriminate against women in different political economic and social areas (Iraq);  99.31 Consider taking all necessary measures to eliminate violence and discrimination against women in all areas of public and private life (Mexico); | Supported | * -The Constitution is the supreme law of Solomon Islands. Chapter 2 of the National Constitution guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms to all citizens regardless of race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex.   ●The principle of non-discrimination of the Constitution is reflected in the following national legislations and policies:   * National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016 – 2035. * Democratic Coalition for Change Government (DCCG) Policy Strategy and Translations. * National Policy on Gender Equality and Women’s Development (GEWD) 2016-2020. * National Policy on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG) 2016 – 2020. * National Strategy on Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls (NSEEWG) launched in 2017. * Women Peace and Security National Action Plan (WPS NAP) 2017-2021. * The Ministry of Public Service Solomon Islands Public Service Transformation Strategy (PSTS) 2017-2021 Thrust 6 * Gender and Women’s policies by the Temotu, Western, Malaita and Guadalcanal Provincial Government’s, and the Honiara City Council * National Youth Policy (NYP) 2017-2030 Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihoods – Leave No One Behind * National Children’s Policy * Family Protection Act (FPA) 2014 * Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016 * Constitution (Amendment) (Dual Citizenship) Act 2018 |
| **30** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.25 Use the advantage of its matrilineal society to improve women’s access to power, especially in relation to land issues; raise the social standing of women and girls; increase access to safe sanitary facilities and encourage the rearing of confident boys and men (Jamaica); | Supported | ● The Traditional Governance and Customs Facilitation Bill 2018 recognize traditional norms, values and practice.   * Outcome called for the recognition of the matrilineal system practiced by a number of diverse ethnic and tribal populations in Solomon Islands including women’s access, use, ownership and inheritance of land. * A proposal is to use the matrilineal system in the decision making of traditional governance structures.   ●A project was established (2018) in partnership with an NGO to increase WASH facilities in communities and schools across West Guadalcanal.   * The project includes 22 schools, 60 communities and 8 rural health clinics, aim to reach approximately 14, 575 people, focusing on gender and social inclusion targeting menstrual health management in schools. * Promote well-maintained and child friendly water, toilets and handwashing facilities * It is a requirement for schools to have proper sanitary facilities before it can be registered to operate * In 2018 MEHRD prioritised the construction of 7 dormitories and ablution blocks in Choiseul, Makira and Isabel with joint funding from development partners. |
| **31** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.19 Continue to implement laws and regulations for the protection and socioeconomic growth of women and the rights of children (Pakistan); | Supported | * ●The Family Protection Act 2014, Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016 and the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 have key have provisions that aims to provide protection for women and children respectively against violence and exploitation. These legislations were supported by key policies that address the protection of women and children.   ● The National Strategy on the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls (NSEEWG), provides strategies to improve the economic status and empowerment of women and girls including employment opportunities. |
| **32** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.32 Strengthen, through adequate sanctions and awareness-raising campaigns, the fight against gender violence. In this regard, consider the adoption of measures, such as quotas, incentives and/or preferential treatment, that promote the incorporation of women into education and the economy, both in the public and private spheres (Chile); | Supported | ●The review of the Education Act 2014 seeks to address the issue of re-entry of pregnant girls into schools. While this is yet to be legislated, some schools are already practicing the reintegration of pregnant girls;  ●The Solomon Islands Tertiary and Skills Act 2017 sets out the Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Authority and requires that the governing body must be comprised of 3 men and 3 women to promote equality.  ●The Solomon Islands National Provident Fund Amendment *Act 2018* promotes equality by enabling women in the informal work sector access savings with the Provident Fund through their voluntary contributions scheme.  ●The Constitution (Amendment) (Electoral Reform Act) Act 2018, allows for mandatory representation of women in the Electoral Commission of one female commissioner.  ●The Land and Titles (Amendment) Act 2014 provides that, for every Land Board, one member must be a female which has been implemented since 2014.  ●The Democratic Coalition for Change Government Policy Strategy and Translation has incorporated the SI CEDAW Concluding Observation Recommendation on TSM as a strategy to strengthen and support gender equality;  ●A Second Chance Program is being implemented by the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) for men and women, girls and boys and those who have dropped out of school |
| **33** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.38 Strengthen the role of the Family Violence Support Unit of the Police and provide all police forces with adequate training on how to treat cases of violence against women and domestic violence and how to provide support to victims (Italy);  99.39 Give more budgetary allocation to the training of police officers and the judiciary to ensure that women have equal and substantive access to justice under the Family Protection Act (Fiji);  100.62 Allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources to the police services, at both local and national levels, so that they can address all complaints of violence against women (Switzerland);  99.37 Take measures to ensure that the police respond to and investigate complaints regarding violence against women and that the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and collect data on the number of prosecutions and convictions, including at the provincial level (Netherlands); | Supported | ● Police has in place a Standing Operation Procedures (SOP) to guide RSIPF response to investigate and prosecute incidents of gender violence   * The RSIPF SOP is incorporated into the SAFENET’s Orientation - Handbook for Practitioners, * The **RSIPF National Community Policing** and **Family Violence Unit** has trained 650 officers (157 females, and 493 males) through forty-two trainings in Honiara and the Provinces between April 2016 to April 2017.   ●Two sources of domestic violence data are by the Police and the Justice Information Management System (JIMS).   * Through the Annual Reports of the Family Protection Act 2014. * The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force also conducts awareness on cybercrime within the communities. * Trainings to investigate and prosecute cyber-crimes. |
| **34** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.34 Take stronger measures to combat domestic violence and protect its victims (Maldives); (Slovenia)  99.35 Ensure the effective implementation of the Family Protection Act of 2014 (Italy);  99.36 Establish appropriate policies to account for and remedy any deficiencies in the application of the Family Protection Act of 2014 and adopt a strategy involving civil society in combating and eliminating domestic violence, sexual abuse and any other form of violence against women (Uruguay); | Supported | ●The FPA 2014 is the first legislation to criminalise domestic violence. It came into force in April 2016.   * To ensure the effective implementation of the FPA a Family Protection Advisory Council (FPAC) was established to provide guidance and advice on the overall implementation of the Act. FPAC is functioning and has conducted frequent meetings since its establishment. * The FPA provides protection mechanisms through Police Safety Notice and Protection Orders; seeks to establish a domestic Counselling Registry; points to the need for continuous nation-wide awareness on the Act; an annual reporting obligation; and review of the Act to be conducted 3 years after enforcement. * Review of the Act was completed in 2020 and report of the review findings and recommendations has been developed to be submitted to cabinet in 2021. |
| **35** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 99.40 Strengthen the SAFENET Referral Network system for women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and consider establishing in all provinces shelters accessible to all women, including those with disabilities (Republic of Korea);  99.41 Strengthen the SAFENET referral system for women who are victims of violence, establish shelters for women in all provinces of the Solomon Islands, and ensure that they are accessible without discrimination, including to women with disabilities (Canada);  99.43 Increase its efforts to address violence against women and children as an urgent priority. This includes fully implementing the Family Protection Act and providing necessary resourcing to ensure that vulnerable women and children have access to both safe dwellings and mechanisms of justice (New Zealand);  99.42 Take measures to combat violence against women and children and to ensure effective complaint mechanisms for victims (Namibia); | Supported | ●The National SAFENET Referral Network (established in Honiara in 2013) is a network of frontline service providers that provide essential services to victims and survivors of gender-based violence.   * Services includes legal advice, counselling, safe accommodation, medical attention etc.   ●The formation of the SAFENET has been a key achievement that has improved access of victims and survivors of gender-based violence to justice, health, legal and other support services.  ●In the last 7 years, SAFENET has been progressively strengthened through the development of SAFENET Guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures, a SAFENET Response and Referral Pathway and the inclusion of Case Management Services.   * SAFENET has been rolled out to 4 Provinces namely Malaita, Western, Temotu and Isabel beginning in 2018. Roll out to the remaining 5 provinces will begin in 2021. * The rollout of SAFENET is supported by UN Women through the Essential Services Package (Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls). * Work is in progress to strengthen the coordination between national and provincial governments, NGOs and stakeholders for effective implementation at the provincial level. * Work is in progress to improve the SAFENET accommodations for survivors at the Provincial level. Currently only 3 Provinces has safe accommodation, namely, Malaita, Guadalcanal and Temotu.   ●A Referral Pathway for children is in the process of being developed to ensure effective protection of children experiencing violence. |
| **36** | 29.1 Discrimination against women | 100.64 Enforce fully recently introduced legislation to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, including prosecutions for individuals suspected of human trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); | Supported | ●The Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) and the Family Protection Act (2014) has provisions that protects women and girls from gender-based violence. The Immigration Act 2012 has provisions that addresses human trafficking.  ●The Children’s Development Division (CDD) within is working to review the Islander Marriage Act 1993 in relation to the legal age of marriage from 15-18 years. CDD in partnership with Social Welfare Division has also developed a Referral Pathway to Social Welfare Division and the police for child welfare and protection matters.  ●The Women’s Development Division (WDD) recently partnered with the International Office of Migration (IOM) to complete a study examining the relationship between logging operations and mobility, and the risks to women and girls in terms of sexual exploitation and trafficking, which was released in 2019.   * The report comprehensively outlines the key issues and risk factors and provides recommendations for SIG to consider going forward.   ●The Immigration Division with the support from IOM has partnered with the Family Support Centre (FSC) to deliver the project ‘Protection of Women and Children, Particularly Girls, in Migration-Affected Communities’ focusing on communities with proximity to extractive industries such as logging and mining.   * The project aims to produce educational resources for communities, and to train community members to identify and respond appropriately to issues such as sexual exploitation, trafficking, and forced marriage.   ●The Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee provides advises to the Government to address issues of child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation  ●Other significant efforts by the Government are:   * the enactment of a provision in the Immigration Act 2012 relating to trafficking in persons; * passage and enactment of the Solomon Islands Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016; * Initiated public awareness on child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation; * Review of the Immigration Act 2012; and review of Trafficking in Persons National Action Plan, 2015 – 2020. |
| **37** | 30.1 Children: definition, general principles, protection | **Protection for Children from all forms of violence and exploitation**  100.56 Step up policies to protect children in order to eliminate violence against girls and boys, as well as combating child labour (Mexico);  99.13 Enhance the protection of children from abuse, including prostitution, child pornography and forced marriages (United States of America);  99.10 Adopt a national plan of action against sexual exploitation of children and against child labour. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to internationally accepted standards and ensure that juvenile justice protection is accorded to all children up to the age of 18 years, as previously recommended (Slovenia);  99.11 Take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of children’s rights, in line with the international obligations of Solomon Islands, particularly by putting in place a juvenile justice system (France);  100.57 End all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home and in schools, by enforcing its prohibition, as previously recommended (Slovenia);  99.14 Provide constitutional and legal protection for children against all forms of violence at home and at school (Fiji);  99.15 Legislative protection for children includes criminal sanctions for all forms of violence against children (Fiji); | Supported | ●The child and Family Welfare Act (2017) passed in Parliament, and has been instrumental in setting out the framework for the care and protection of children against all forms of violence including those that are (or are at risk of) being exploited sexually or subject to hazardous labour. The Act was complimented by the National Children’s Policy.   * The Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) continues to provide awareness and advocacy on Children’s rights. * The formulation of the pilot project on positive parenting programme to communities through church networks done within the provinces, allowed for the training for adults on positive parenting.   ●The following legislations protects and safeguards children from being exploited and abused:   * Review of the Islanders Marriage Act to increase the marriage age from 15 to 18 years. * The Solomon Islands Labour Act, prohibits child labour. * The Immigration Act 2012 has provisions to counter trafficking in persons. * The Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016 has provisions that addresses trafficking in person and sexual exploitation. * The Education Act 2014 prohibits corporal punishment in schools, which is also included in the new Education Bill and the teachers' handbook   ●The current Justice system has special consideration for juveniles, allocated prison space, hearing and bailing of cases which involve a Juvenile.   * The draft Youth Justice Bill has increased the criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years |
| **38** | 37. Right to development - general measures of implementation | 99.55 Further strengthen the necessary measures to address climate change, environmental degradation and disaster management (Myanmar). | Supported | ●The Government has strengthen its effort to address climate change by the formulation and implementation of the National Climate Change Policy.   * Objective of the policy is to effectively Respond to Climate Change and Manage the Environment and Risks of Natural Disasters. The Government is also working with international stakeholders for support. |
| **39** | 37. Right to development - general measures of implementation | 100.78 Approve the roadmap on the reduction of emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation, on the role of conservation and sustainable forest management and on the reinforcement of forest carbon stocks (Benin). | Supported | ●The National Climate Change Policy is complimented by the Solomon Islands REDD+ Readiness Roadmap (2014-2020) – to sustainably manage forest sector that supports rural livelihoods, maintains the quality of the environment, contributes to the socio-economic development of the nation and through reducing levels of emissions from the forest sector contributes towards global actions to mitigate climate change.  ●As per the National Determined Contributions (NDC) submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat on the 30th of September 2015:   * The conditional target for Solomon Islands is 27% reduction in GHG emissions by 2025 and 45% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to a Business As Usual (BAU) projection. * The unconditional target for Solomon Islands is 12% reduction below 2015 level by 2025 and a 30% reduction below 2015 levels by 2030 compared to a Business As Usual (BAU) projection. |
| **40** | 39.1 Voluntary human rights goals | 99.6 Implement those measures that the Government of Solomon Islands committed to promoting, in line with paragraph 125 of your national report (Panama); | Supported | • The Government has formulated a draft national reporting and follow-up mechanism concept paper in 2019.  • Work is in progress to consider ratifying the CRPD. There is ongoing implementation of the Draft National Disability Policy by the National Community Based Rehabilitation Unit from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.   * Awareness, trainings and support were given to PWD.   • The Government is committed to implement the principles of the ICESCR and CERD.  • Discussions has been made for the proposed establishment of a NHRI in the near future. |