



Pacific Technical Cooperation Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

7 - 11 April 2025 | Suva, Fiji



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
TREATY BODIES



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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Pacific Regional Office

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Programme

Monday 7 April 2025		Tuesday 8 April 2025		Wednesday 9 April 2025		Thursday 10 April 2025		Friday 11 April 2025	
8.30am - 10.00am <i>(Public with invitees given priority access to Drua Conference Room)</i>	Opening <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>	9.00am - 10.30am <i>(Public)</i>	Consultation on GR 41: Gender Stereotypes <i>Venue: USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre</i>	9.00am - 10.00am <i>(Closed)</i>	CEDAW Bureau Meeting <i>Venue: PIFS - Committee Room B</i>	9.00am - 10.00am <i>(Public)</i>	2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: fostering a resilient inclusive, equitable, secure and prosperous future for the Pacific <i>Venue: PIFS-Exec Conf Room</i>	9.00am - 10.00am <i>(Closed)</i>	CEDAW Bureau Meeting <i>Venue: PIFS - Exec Conf Room B</i>
10.00am - 10.15am <i>(Closed)</i>	Press conference <i>Venue: PIFS - outside Conf Drua Room</i>	10.30am - 12.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Talanoa - Women's Political Participation and GR 40 <i>Venue: USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre</i>	10.00am - 1.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Tuvalu Exchange <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>	10.00am - 1.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Solomon Islands Exchange <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>	10.00am - 1.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Fiji Exchange <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>
10.30am - 12.00pm <i>(Closed)</i>	Briefings by UN entities <i>Venue: PIFS-Exec Conf Room</i>	12.00pm - 1.30pm <i>(Public)</i>	Talanoa - Women with Disabilities <i>Venue: USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre</i>	1.00pm - 3.00pm: Lunch (Participants)		1.00pm - 3.00pm: Lunch (Participants)		1.00pm - 2.00pm: Lunch	
12.00pm: Lunch (Participants)		1.30pm - 3.00pm: Lunch (Participants)		1.00pm - 3.00pm <i>(Closed)</i>	Private NGO Lunchtime Briefing on Solomon Islands <i>Venue: PIFS-Exec Conf Room</i>	1.00pm - 3.00pm <i>(Closed)</i>	Private NGO Lunchtime Briefing on Fiji <i>Venue: PIFS-Exec Conf Room B</i>	2.00pm - 4.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Fiji Exchange, continued <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>
1.00pm - 2.30pm <i>(Public)</i>	Briefings by NGOs and NHRIs <i>Venue: USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre</i>	1.30pm - 3.00pm <i>(Closed)</i>	Private NGO Lunchtime Briefing on Tuvalu <i>Venue: USP - Conference Room 1</i>	3.00pm - 5.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Tuvalu Exchange, continued <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>	3.00pm - 5.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Solomon Islands Exchange, continued <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>	4.00pm - 5.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Country Reflections <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>
2.30pm - 4.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Talanoa - Culture and Gender <i>USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre</i>	3.00pm - 4.30pm <i>(Public)</i>	Talanoa - Gender-based Violence <i>Venue: USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre</i>	5.00pm - 6.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Side Event - Statelessness, Gender and Climate Change <i>Venue: PIFS - Exec Conf Room & Online</i>	5.00pm - 6.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Side Event - Nationally Determined Contributions and Gender <i>Venue: PIFS-Exec Conf Room</i>	5.00pm - 6.00pm <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>	Closing <i>Venue: PIFS Conf Drua Room</i>
4.30pm - 6.00pm <i>(Public)</i>	Talanoa - Children, Youth and Gender <i>USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre</i>	4.30pm - 6.00pm <i>Venue: USP</i>	Ratification event <i>Venue: USP - Conference Room 1</i>					6.00pm <i>(by invitation)</i>	Cocktails hosted by Australia <i>Venue: PIFS-Fale</i>

Venue Key: PIFS: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat | USP: The University of the South Pacific, laucala Campus

Note: All public sessions (marked in light blue) will be 'live' streamed via Zoom. The opening ceremony will also be livestreamed at the USP ICT Lecture Theatre for those unable to attend at PIFS. Side rooms will be available at PIFS to follow proceedings via Zoom for those unable to access the Drua Conference Room due to space constraints.



Briefings by NGOs and NHRIs

Monday 7 April 2025 | 1.00pm - 2.30pm | USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre

This session will be a space for civil society organisations (CSOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and non-government organisations (NGOs) to provide a briefing to the CEDAW committee members regarding key human rights issues in the Pacific relating to gender equality.



Talanoa: Culture and Gender

Monday 7 April 2025 | 2.30pm - 4.30pm | USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre

This session will explore the intersections of culture, religion, and gender in the Pacific, highlighting how cultural traditions and faith can both enable and challenge gender equality. This session will feature traditional leaders, faith-based representatives, youth advocates, and scholars, the discussion will also provide guidance from CEDAW Committee members on overcoming barriers to gender rights. The event will serve as a platform for peer learning, consultation on gender stereotypes, and strengthening regional commitment to CEDAW implementation.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions or make comments in person or online.



Talanoa: Children, Youth and Gender

Monday 7 April 2025 | 4.30pm - 6.00pm | USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre

This session will explore the challenges and opportunities Pacific children and youth—especially girls—face in realising their rights, balancing cultural traditions with legal protections. This session will feature videos from across the Pacific, art performances as well as panel discussion with young advocates, the event will highlight key issues like child marriage and gender equality. It will bring together regional leaders, youth networks, and development partners for a meaningful conversation on advancing rights and empowerment across the Pacific.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions or make comments in person or online.





Consultations on GR41: Gender Stereotypes

Tuesday 8 April 2025 | 9.00am - 10.30am | USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre

This session will focus on General Recommendation No. 41 (GR41) and its relevance to gender stereotypes. The CEDAW Committee is using this opportunity to gather input from the Pacific region to ensure that regional perspectives are reflected in international recommendations on gender stereotypes. It will explore how gender stereotypes perpetuate inequality and limit women's opportunities, with a focus on strategies for overcoming these barriers. The session will inform the development of recommendations that will contribute to shaping international standards on gender equality.



Talanoa: Women's Political Participation, including GR40

Tuesday 8 April 2025 | 10.30am - 12.00pm | USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre

This session will focus on breaking barriers to women's political participation in the Pacific, addressing CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 (GR40), which calls for 50:50 gender parity in decision-making. With the Pacific region having the lowest rates of female parliamentary representation globally, the discussion will explore structural reforms, cultural influences, and economic empowerment as pathways to leadership. The session will feature women leaders, rights advocates, and development partners, sharing experiences and strategies for achieving gender equality in politics.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions or make comments in person or online.



Talanoa: Women with disabilities

Tuesday 8 April 2025 | 12.00pm - 1.00pm | USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre

This event, organised by the Pacific Disability Forum, will highlight the challenges faced by women with disabilities in the Pacific and their exclusion from CEDAW implementation. Women with disabilities make up 60% of the region's disability population yet face significant barriers to education, employment, healthcare, and political participation. The session will provide a platform for leaders from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to share lived experiences and advocate for stronger inclusion in national CEDAW frameworks.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions or make comments in person or online.





Talanoa: Gender-Based Violence

Tuesday 8 April 2025 | 3.00pm - 4.30pm | USP - Japan-Pacific ICT Lecture Theatre

The Pacific faces alarmingly high rates of gender-based violence, with over 60% of women experiencing violence in their lifetime. This discussion will feature representatives from governments and CSOs, who will share insights on effective GBV prevention strategies, power dynamics, and the role of community-based interventions. Objectives include identifying challenges and opportunities in GBV prevention, empowering rights holders, and exploring emerging trends such as climate change and technology-facilitated violence. The event will engage a wide range of participants, from survivors to government and NGO representatives.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions or make comments in person or online.



Side event: Statelessness, Gender and Climate Change

Wednesday 9 April 2025 | 5.00pm - 6.00pm | PIFS - Executive Conference Room

This session will focus on the intersection of statelessness and gender discrimination, particularly in the Pacific region. Gender-based nationality laws in countries like Kiribati and the Solomon Islands contribute to statelessness, with women unable to pass on their nationality to their children if the father is not a citizen. UNHCR has been advocating for legal reforms in the Pacific, with a new agenda set for 2025. The session will highlight the impact of statelessness on women, offer case studies, and discuss the future implications of climate change and statelessness in the Pacific.



2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: fostering a resilient inclusive, equitable, secure and prosperous future for the Pacific

Thursday 10 April 2025 | 9.00am - 10.00am | PIFS - Executive Conference Room

This Talanoa session will focus on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, a long-term vision for the Pacific region's resilience, security, and prosperity, with an emphasis on climate change. Hosted by PIFS, the session will highlight the importance of gender-responsive climate policies and the active role of women in climate action. Panellists will discuss political commitments like the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, advocacy through climate champions, safeguarding statehood in the face of sea-level rise, and women's economic empowerment.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions or make comments in person or online.





Talanoa: NDCs and Gender

Thursday 10 April 2025 | 9.00am - 10.00am | PIFS - Executive Conference Room

This session will focus on the integration of gender considerations into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the frameworks that countries use to outline their commitments to climate action under the Paris Agreement.



About Pacific Technical Cooperation Session of the CEDAW

The Pacific Technical Cooperation Session of the CEDAW Committee is a landmark event aimed at advancing women's rights and gender equality across the Pacific. Scheduled to take place in Fiji from 7 - 11 April 2025, this session will bring together government representatives, civil society organisations, and women's rights advocates to engage directly with members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee). The session presents a unique opportunity to enhance the region's engagement with the CEDAW treaty body system and accelerate the implementation of the Convention in Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

This will be the first time the full CEDAW Committee will review Pacific country reports in the region, marking a historic step in increasing accessibility and engagement with treaty bodies. The session will review the reports of Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu, reflecting on progress and challenges in implementing CEDAW.

**For more
information:**

