

## PSIDS STATEMENT by EMELI ANISE

My name is Emeli Anise from Fiji and I am here today to speak on behalf of the Women's Major Group as the PSIDS organising partner, in solidarity with other Major Groups here, the Fiji Women's Rights Movement, and the International Women's Development Agency.

Resilient prosperity in the Pacific region is hampered by many ongoing issues. Some of the **core** challenges we face include **the loss and damage exacerbated by the climate and ecological emergency, decades of genocide in West Papua, colonies and disputed unceded territories, double the global** rates of gender based violence, **criminalised LGBTQI+ people**, fewest women in parliaments, **massive debt to GDP ratios**, increasing poverty rates, **labour mobility schemes**, poor **gendered** health outcomes **including rapidly rising HIV rates** and the region's **complex small-island/large oceanic realities of political and economic pressure from larger countries, high rates of unimproved water and sanitation, food sovereignty, poor ICT infrastructure, ongoing COVID19 and rising zoonotic and vector-borne diseases and antibiotic resistance, and more.**

While the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat gives the region its guide towards achieving the SDGs through the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, what the region needs is to **ensure strength and coherence** between **CEDAW, ICPD, the SDGs, SIDS4 Outcomes**, the 2050 Strategy, National Development plans for Pacific Island Countries and local communities. The Pacific needs:

- **Focus on women smallholders, small-scale food producers and farmers, fisher women and those working in aquaculture, tourism and overall stronger safeguards for the security and empowerment of women working in non-traditional sectors;**
- **Clear affirmation of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and universal human rights as central to realization of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of women in SIDS;**
- Gendered approaches in collecting sex disaggregated data to better inform development work at the National Level that ultimately inform the region's progress towards the SDGs;
- **Commit to tackling the structural and socioeconomic inequalities and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination that affect all SIDS women and girls, including women with disabilities and women with diverse SOGIESC, that hinder progress and development;**

Thank you