

Ministerial Statement – Parliament Sitting 24th March 2015

Minister for Home Affairs – 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
United Nations – New York, USA – 9 to 13th March 2015

Hon Speaker,

It is my privilege to have represented our Pleasant Island (Naoero) at the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held at UN Headquarters in New York, America.

I was accompanied by Mr Filipo Masaurua – Senior Government Lawyer – specialising in Human Rights and Gender.

The Commission is an age old part of the UN machinery having been born back in February 1947 not long after the founding of the UN itself. The Commission forged a close linkage with non government organisations, who was in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECCOSOC) who are invited as observers to the Commission's conferences.

The Commission focuses on global awareness of women's issues, such as setting standards and formulating international conventions to change Discriminatory Legislation in member countries of the United Nations.

For the 59th session of the CSW, the Government of Nauru attended for the First time seeing as this is a Global Women's Ministerial Conference at the UN. I would like to thank and note support from PIFs, Australia and our own Permanent Mission of the Republic to the UN for all assistance rendered to making this experience a note worthy one, for myself as a woman parliamentarian representing our women and our nation.

Discussions centred around the way forward after Beijing + 20 and where countries were at in regards to ensuring equality, fairness and development were being prioritised in their home countries for their women and girls.

In my national statement, emphasis was placed on highlighting the progress made and also the challenges faced with regard to the promotion and protection of women's human rights nationally. Government's pivotal role in guaranteeing the rights of all its citizens; men, women and children. It was also mentioned of Government's duty to create a framework in which families can thrive and human rights flourish.

Climate Change was also mentioned as a priority for Nauru and how it is an existential threat to our safety and well being.

Women Ministers from Palau, Kiribati, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Nauru were present at the conference with two Men Ministers from Tonga, Samoa

Thank you.

Hon. Charmaine Scotty, mp
Minister for Home Affairs, Education and Land Management