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Solomon Islands

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Abbreviations

BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCCG	Democratic Coalition for Change Government
DV	Domestic Violence
DSE	Development Services Exchange
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
FPA	Family Protection Act
GEWD	Gender Equality and Women's Development
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
LRC	Law Reform Commission
MCILI	Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration
MDPAC	Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination
MEHRD	Ministry of Education and Human Resource Management
MFAET	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
MJLA	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MWYCFA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
MoFR	Ministry of Forestry and Research
NACC	National Advisory and Action for Children
NEAP	National Education Action Plan
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NDTF	National Drafting Task Force on (UPR)
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPMC	Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet
PILNA	Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment
PPY	Primary Preparation Year
RSIPF	Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
RWASH	Rural Water Sanitation & Hygiene
SBD	Solomon Islands Dollar
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPC-RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team

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SISTA	Solomon Islands Standardised Test of Achievement
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

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I. Acknowledgement

1. The Solomon Islands recognizes the importance of human rights and affirms its commitment to human rights principles, emphasizing that genuine partnerships are essential to promoting and protecting the rights of all people.

2. The Government extends its sincere appreciation to all stakeholders involved in the development of the Solomon Islands Fourth Cycle Human Rights Universal Periodic Review report, including government bodies, the private sector, and civil society organizations. It also acknowledges the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for its financial support, which enabled nationwide consultations whose outcomes informed the report.

3. Further gratitude is expressed for the technical assistance provided by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, SPC–RRRT, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Fiji, including support for the 2023 midterm review workshop, outreach missions, and training programs. The report also recognizes the leadership and coordination of the United Nations Branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade in compiling the report.

II. Introduction

4. Solomon Islands had its first, second and third cycles of UPR reporting in 2011, 2016 and 2021 respectively, with the commitment to uphold, protect and promote Human rights commitments and obligations within the Country and to adhere to the UPR national reporting obligation.

5. In the third cycle of UPR reporting cycle, Solomon Islands accepted 106 out of the 160 recommendations. This report provides a bird's eye view of Solomon Islands human rights status, progress and efforts of advancing human rights promotion in Solomon Islands.

6. This report covers four thematic areas namely: Cross-cutting human rights issues, Civil and Political Rights, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Rights of Specific Persons or Groups. A matrix outlining the current status and position on the country's legislations and frameworks in response to the 106 supported recommendations is enclosed as an annex.

III. Methodology and process for preparing the report

7. The primary actor in upholding defending and promoting human rights is the state. Leading the process and production of the National Report for the fourth cycle is the Government of Solomon Islands. This report is put together based on the outcome of a series of nationwide consultations, interviews and outcome of a 2023 midterm human rights workshop with relevant government, civil society and non-government stakeholders.

8. Solomon Islands Fourth Cycle UPR report was put together by a national drafting task force made up of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs and Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs.

9. The report is accompanied by a matrix that identifies Solomon Islands human rights progress, best practices, lessons learnt, gaps, resources and institutional challenges in the last five years and Solomon Islands human rights aspiration going forward.

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IV. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycles

A. Cross-cutting issues

10. Solomon Islands Constitution of 1978 is the supreme law of the land. Chapter II of the Constitution has provisions for the Rights and Freedoms for the people of Solomon Islands.

11. The country has signed and ratified five of the nine core human rights treaties namely the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) being the latest to be ratified in June 2023.

12. Solomon Islands has ratified Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict in August 2022.

1. Ratification of and accession to international instruments

13. Solomon Islands continue to align national legislation and policies with international standards concerning the protection of children. This requires legislative and institutional reform measures to protect the rights of children.

14. Currently Solomon Islands is reviewing the Juvenile Offenders Act (1972) to ensure it is child protection compliant with age-related criminal responsibility. A successor legal framework, the Youth Justice Bill will provide a clearer process in dealing with children between the age of 10–14 years held criminally responsible for their action where guilt is proven by the prosecution.

15. Solomon Island is domesticating the CRC Optional Protocol by introducing higher penalties for offences involving the sale of children, prostitution, and child pornography through the review of the Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016.

16. This is complimented by the review of Evidence Act 2009 to allow for Audio recording of children's testimony, and Special arrangements for vulnerable child witnesses to give evidence outside the formal courtroom setting.

17. Solomon Islands has instituted Justice Information Management System (JIMS) to data and monitor children's cases working within the justice institutions. This will be supported by a Standard Operating Procedure to manage and process children through the legal system.

18. In looking ahead, Solomon Islands will be developing a policy paper to support a future Traffick in Person legislation.

2. Equality and non-discrimination

19. Solomon Islands laws do not discriminate against any gender either male or female.

20. The Citizenship Act 2018, is open to men and women age 18 years and above who can apply to become a citizen and provided all eligibility criteria are met accordingly.

21. On equitable access to education, the report is pleased to note near gender balance enrolments in Solomon Islands primary to senior secondary schools. This is guided by the Education Sector Framework 2016–2030 and National Education Action Plan 2022–2026. Current ratio of male and female enrolment is almost near parity. (*48.4% female to 51.6%male for secondary to tertiary education enrolment).*

22. Solomon Islands recognise due to resources limitations, geographic inequities, and data gaps. More needs to be done to target girls in upper secondary and tertiary education,

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and more focus pathways for children with disabilities are needed to achieve full implementation.

3. Right to development

23. Solomon Islands is a Small Island Developing state with a Least Developed Country (LDC) status. The country is going through its nation building process and has one of the fastest growing populations in the Pacific region at a rate of 2.4% per annum. The rate of the population growth is not keeping up with the development needs of the country.

24. Solomon Islands is scheduled to graduate out of its LDC status in 2027, having met the Human Asset Index and GNI per capita thresholds. A LDC Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) is in placed as of 2025. The Transition Strategy serves as a comprehensive roadmap to ensure Solomon Islands graduation is sustainable, resilience and irreversible after graduation.

4. Energy

25. As a Small Islands Developing State, our vulnerability to external shocks is real. This year's global energy crisis has placed much stress on Solomon Islands narrow based economy. Projected economic growth for 2026 at 3.8% have been revised downward to 3.6% by Solomon Islands Central Bank.

26. Solomon Islands has one of the highest electricity costs globally speaking at USD 0.73 per unit. Only 20% of the population are connected to the national grid. Renewable energy potential is rich from geothermal, solar, hydro, biomass and wind but needs partnership to lift these renewable energy resources off the ground.

27. Currently the country is constructing a hydro project which is expected to provide only 15 megawatts by 2028. Having said this the right to energy remains on the national agenda as work in progress noting only 20% of the population are connected to the grid.

5. Development partners

28. Solomon Islands has made significant progress in strengthening its partnerships with traditional and non-traditional Partners. The development needs of the country demand a broader set of partners noting many Partners opted for a regional approach making relations done remotely.

6. Infrastructure

29. After 48 years since gaining political independence, Solomon Islands is constructing 161 communication towers with the support of China across the country that will connect up to 80 per cent of our population opening access to basic telecommunication services. Of the 161 towers, 130 have been constructed with 57 now in operation. The transformative investment will ensure more of our people login into digital mobile service and integrate them into the mainstream economy.

30. In 2026, the government aimed to accelerate investment in key economic infrastructure to drive diversification and transformational growth. Strategic emphasis has been placed on energy initiatives that enhance economic production, particularly through targeted investments in rural roads, maritime shipping, port facilities, renewable energy systems, and digital infrastructure in high-value productive zones.

7. Critical minerals

31. As logging declines, mining is emerging as a critical economic driver. Mapping of mineral deposits including the construction of a National Geochemical Laboratory remains national priority. Strengthening of the sector with institutional investment and legislative reforms is work in progress.

8. Food security and agriculture

32. Agriculture is the backbone of Solomon Islands economy. Sustainable agriculture provides food security for 80% of Solomon Islands living in the rural areas. The country is

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working to commercialize two of Solomon Islands traditional crops taro and cassava in an effort to combat non-communicable disease which claims 70% of deaths in the country.

33. In the agriculture sector, Solomon Islands has focused on rehabilitating cocoa and coconut industries to increase its production and boost the growth of the economy. Kava and seaweed production are two other crops promoted nationwide.

9. The Bina Harbour Tuna Processing Plant Project

34. The large Pacific Ocean supplies more than half of the world's tuna. Fisheries is a revenue earner of the Pacific. Solomon Islands is looking at establishing a second tuna processing plant in one of its provinces.

35. The country is blessed with rich fishing grounds for tuna. It is one of the six countries that make up the coral triangle, hosting 76% of the world's marine biodiversity. The Bina Harbour continues to receive public support to keep investing in the national project.

10. Environmental issues

Climate change

36. Solomon Islands is located in a hotspot where the impact of climate change is three times the global average. The frequency and intensity of the natural disasters is increasing. Cyclone Maila that struck Solomon Islands in April 2026 left a path of destruction and reversing development gains our people achieved over decades in two of our provinces. Schools, homes, clinics and food gardens were impacted.

37. Solomon Islands has made significant progress in strengthening its disaster and climate risk management capabilities since 2020. The Government has been proactive in accessing international climate and disaster risk financing mechanisms to implement climate adaptation and disaster resilience initiatives.

38. Key achievements include: establishing a National Disaster Management Office to coordinate preparedness; response and recovery efforts, integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into national policies and plans; enhancing community-based disaster risk management; and improving early warning systems and emergency response capabilities. Coordination mechanisms between national, provincial and community stakeholders have also been strengthened, and external climate finance has been channelled into adaptation and resilience-building projects.

39. Ongoing enforcement of the Environment Act 1998 and its regulation 2008 on protecting environmental degradation that includes consistent enforcement of the conduct of Environment Impact Assessment that includes social impacts from logging developments and companies.

40. People's right to survive is threatened by sea level rise, hotter and acidic ocean.

Forestry

41. Reforming forestry legislation and policies to sustainably manage the declining forestry resources is work in progress, it is also the country's goal to conserve and phasing out export of round logs with sustainably processed timbers remains on the agenda.

B. Civil and political rights

42. Good governance and integrity in public institutions are essential pillars of the Solomon Islands' national development agenda. Office of the Ombudsman, Leadership Code Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission. All institutions support keeps public servants and the public system honest.

43. The Government continues to be in discussion to consider setting up a National Human Rights Institute. One recommendation as way forward is for the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affaires to be expanding the mandate of their existing ministry to include the

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promotion and protection of human rights within one of their Law reform Unit or to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to health

44. Health remains the key critical commitment for the Solomon Islands Government. The government continued to invest and expand access to essential health services, strengthen rural health systems, and ensure that quality care reaches even the most remote communities. Government remains steadfast in its commitment to deliver free health care services across the nation.

45. Health care in Solomon Islands is offered free to all citizens. Training of doctors remains a priority as of 2024 doctor population ratio is about 2.4 doctors for every 10,000 people.

2. Right to education

46. The Government continues to strengthen the right to education through reforms guided by the Education Act 2023, the Education Strategic Framework 2016–2030, the National Education Action Plan (NEAP) 2022–2026, and the National Development Strategy 2016–2035, which align with Sustainable Development Goal 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education.

47. Significant progress has been made in expanding access to education, including the introduction of the Primary Preparation Year (PPY) for five-year-old children and the implementation of policies supporting universal and fee-free basic education.

48. Efforts are ongoing to improve retention, completion rates, and equitable access to education, particularly for students in rural and remote communities. Infrastructure improvements, including classroom construction and student dormitories, are being implemented to address geographic barriers to education.

49. Teacher certification and professional development initiatives are also being strengthened to improve education quality. However, challenges remain in ensuring adequate teacher deployment to remote areas and improving learning outcomes.

50. Monitoring of education quality is supported through national and regional assessments, including the Solomon Islands Standardised Test of Achievement (SISTA) and the Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA).

D. Rights of specific persons or group

1. Children

51. The Government of Solomon Islands continues to strengthen the protection and welfare of children through its legal and policy framework guided by the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017. The Act establishes a national framework for identifying and protecting children in vulnerable situations and outlines procedures for responding to children in need of care and protection.

52. Following the gazettal of the Child and Family Welfare Act in September 2022, the Government launched the Child and Family Welfare System Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan 2025-2030 on 25 July 2025 to operationalise the Act. The Plan provides a coordinated national framework to strengthen prevention, early intervention, case management, and service delivery for children across government and key stakeholders.

53. The Government continues to strengthen child protection services through collaboration between the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, and other relevant institutions.

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54. Efforts are also ongoing to strengthen referral and case management systems for vulnerable children through coordinated multi-sectoral mechanisms.

55. The issue of the age of criminal responsibility remains under review as part of ongoing justice sector reforms, including the development of the Youth Justice Bill.

2. Women and protection from domestic violence

56. The Government of Solomon Islands continues to strengthen measures to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls through the implementation of the Family Protection Act 2014, which provides the legal framework for addressing domestic violence and establishing protection mechanisms for survivors.

57. The Act criminalises domestic violence and provides for protection orders and other safeguards for victims. These measures contribute to protecting women and children who are affected by domestic violence within households.

58. A multi-sectoral approach is applied in responding to gender-based violence through cooperation among justice, health, policing, and social welfare services. The SafeNet Referral Network serves as a coordinated national referral mechanism addressing gender-based violence and related child protection cases. The network facilitates cooperation between government agencies and civil society organisations to ensure survivors have access to legal, medical, psychosocial and protection services.

59. Strengthening referral pathways and improving access to support services, particularly in rural and remote communities, remains a priority.

3. Persons with disabilities

60. Solomon Islands ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 22 June 2023, reaffirming its commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

61. The Government has adopted the National Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2023–2031, which provides a national framework for promoting disability inclusion across sectors, including education, health, employment, and community participation.

62. Additional initiatives include the development of the National Mental Health Policy 2023, as well as ongoing work towards the development of mental health and disability legislation.

63. Despite these advances, challenges remain in ensuring full participation and access to services for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas. The Government continues to strengthen data systems, policies and institutional capacity to improve disability inclusion.

4. Inclusive education and vulnerable children

64. The Government continues to promote inclusive education through policy and institutional measures aimed at supporting children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

65. Key initiatives include the implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy, the development of an Inclusive Education Manual, and the establishment of the Inclusive Education Implementation and Monitoring Committee.

66. Efforts are underway to strengthen participation of children with disabilities in the education system, although access remains limited. Data limitations and geographic barriers continue to affect implementation.

67. The Government is working to strengthen data systems, teacher training, and school infrastructure to support inclusive education and improve access for children with disabilities.

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5. Climate change, disaster risk reduction and vulnerable communities

68. Recognising the vulnerability of Solomon Islands to climate change and natural disasters, the Government continues to integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) into the education sector and broader development planning.

69. Policies and programmes are aligned with national and international frameworks, including the National Development Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals. Initiatives include the development of School-Based Disaster and Climate Resilience Planning, disaster preparedness training for teachers, and the integration of climate resilience into school infrastructure planning.

70. While progress has been made through pilot programmes and targeted initiatives, nationwide implementation remains ongoing.

V. Constitutional and legislative framework

71. The constitutional and legislative framework supporting child protection is addressed through the reforms and initiatives outlined under thematic area 1, with MJLA's work focusing on legislative alignment with international obligations, strengthening justice sector responses to child exploitation and abuse, ensuring child-sensitive procedures within the criminal justice system, and supporting policy development and Cabinet decision-making in areas not covered in this report but still within Solomon Island's mandate.

72. Solomon Islands continues to play a central role in advancing legal and policy reforms aimed at protecting children, preventing exploitation, and fulfilling Solomon Islands' international commitments. Ongoing legislative reviews, inter-agency collaboration, and Cabinet-level engagement demonstrate a sustained commitment to strengthening the national child protection and justice framework.

VI. Challenges

73. The Solomon Islands will continue to undertake reviews of its laws and policies to respond to the evolving needs of its people and environment. Priority areas include gender equality, the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children, economic empowerment, law and order and access to justice. The Government remains committed to working with development partners in ensuring that gender mainstreaming is systematically integrated across the public service, supported by the dissemination and promotion of identified good practices.

74. The Government recognises the need to streamline human rights reporting, including under the UPR and treaty body mechanisms, and improve inter-ministerial co-ordination of these processes. In this regard, the Government is committed to establishing a centralised coordination mechanism responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress on human rights, including advancing the establishment of a national human rights institution. The mechanism will also be responsible for the timely preparation and submission of reports on human rights issues, including to relevant international human rights mechanism, through a consultative process. Greater collaboration with the Parliament Foreign Relations Committee is envisaged to ensure human rights commitments are effectively brought to the attention of legislators for consideration and action.

VII. Capacity-building and requests for technical support

75. The Government recognises the need to develop a comprehensive program on human rights which includes training and capacity-building for public officials. Pivotal to human rights education is the availability of regular, reliable and accurate data, as well as strengthened monitoring and evaluation systems.

76. The Government further recognises emerging issues at the intersection of environmental protection, private sector activities and human rights, which requires

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strengthened legal and policy frameworks, as well as effective enforcement mechanisms. Continued financial and technical assistance is sought to support these endeavours, until such time that the Solomon Islands is technically capable of meeting its human rights obligations.

VIII. Conclusion

77. Solomon Islands continues to undergo a process of nation-building, with development progress not yet commensurate with the scale and complexity of national development needs. In line with SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals, evolving regional and global engagement has strengthened bilateral cooperation, contributing to the implementation of several nationally significant and transformative development projects.

78. Solomon Islands recognises the indivisibility of human rights and sustainable development and affirms that the promotion and protection of human rights is integral to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Government remains committed to mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals across national planning, policy frameworks, and implementation processes, acknowledging that the realisation of the Goals depends on shared global responsibility and strengthened partnerships with Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

79. Advancing the rights and well-being of the people of Solomon Islands is intrinsically linked to climate resilience, including under SDG 13 on climate action, the transition towards a low-carbon development pathway, and the creation of inclusive and people-centred economic opportunities, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind. This approach reflects the integrated and balanced implementation of the three pillars of sustainable development—economic, social, and environmental.

80. Strengthened and effective partnerships remain essential to mobilising the means of implementation, including finance, capacity-building, technology, and data systems, required to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and to realise the universal aspirations of freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the right of all people to live in dignity.

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