

Country session: Solomon Islands

Date of session: 23rd January 2018

Context

The Committee congratulated the progress made by the Solomon Islands in various areas, despite the difficulties faced due its colonial past, geographical location dispersed over 900 islands and the effects of climate change in the Pacific Ocean and the country.

Background information

[OHCHR press release](#)

[Webcast](#)

[Audio file](#)

Reporting

Reporting methodology

Regular reporting procedure

Simplified reporting procedure

Concluding Observations with urgent measures

State report:

Common core document	
Initial submission	-

CRC:		OPAC:		OPSC:	
No. of report	2 nd -3 rd	No. of report	-	No. of report	-
Due date	9 th May 2007	Due date	-	Due date	-
Submission	1 st July 2016	Submission	-	Submission	-

Written replies to LOIs	
Submission	13 th October 2017
Due date	15 th October 2017

Additional comments: The Committee regretted that the 2nd and 3rd combined report of the country had been fourteen years delayed and encourage it to submit a common core document.

Public reports from children's rights defenders

Alternative reports	
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Helpline International Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Children
NHRIs	-

State delegation

The delegation of the Solomon Islands was present over videoconferencing through UNICEF Fiji and was headed by Ms Alependava, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, and was joined by further eight high-level and technical members of different ministries.

Committee's Task Force members

Name & Last Name	Country
Mr. Benyam MEZMUR	Ethiopia
Mr. Clarence NELSON	Samoa

Dialogue description

i. Character of the dialogue

The dialogue was sincere and both sides made efforts for a transparent and productive interaction.

ii. General assessment made by the Committee

The Committee voiced concern over budgetary constraints, since the budget heavily relies on foreign assistance and it is hard to balance foreign interests and national interests.

iii. Main issues discussed:

- **Data Collection:** The Committee showed concern over the lack of a comprehensive data collection and that existing surveys have not been shared. The delegation replied that it has difficulties in communication and data collection due to the level of geographical span of the country.
- **Training and Dissemination:** The Committee showed concern over the lack of awareness raising campaigns for children on the new National Children Policy and other rights of the child national documents. The delegation said it has awareness programmes for children, which will be implemented when the overall advocacy plans are finalised. The Committee asked if there is sufficient training of police staff and other relevant staff. The delegation replied that the Family and Women Act has promoted activities with UNICEF such as community facilitation package for promoting positive parenting and share key advocacy materials with stakeholders from the provinces. Moreover, it has put in place training public service workers, police and supporting organisations that will be involved in the implementation of the FWA and Family Protection Advisory Council in the future.
- **Non-discrimination:** The Committee was reticent regarding the promotion of formal adoption in the Solomon Islands and asked if there are particular risks with informal

adoptions. The Committee asked whether there was an improvement in the non-discrimination and access to health of education of all children, especially children with disabilities, girls in rural areas. The delegation said it has a helpline for people with disabilities to advise them on how to access services and that there is a rehabilitation programme. For access to health for children with disabilities, the delegation said it had child-friendly clinics strategically located based on location and needs. In addition, the delegation informed that the Ministry of Education is working to identify why girls do not continue their education so as to fight school absenteeism, which is also related to matters of natural disasters and extreme harsh weather conditions.

- **Children Deprived of a Family Environment:** The Committee asked if there was an implementation plan for these new laws and if shelters and counselling were provided for victims of domestic violence. The delegation replied that victims stay in a safe place for children and family support centre and that there are other facilities for long term cases. The Committee was reticent regarding the promotion of formal adoption in the Solomon Islands and asked if there are any particular risks resulting from informal adoptions. The delegation replied that there are no rules on adoption but that the changes to the adoption act by the Family and Women Act provides some safety nets, although informal adoption still persists. The aim of the act tries to put a framework of monitoring and protection for children in the country.

Recommendations of the Committee

- **Data Collection:** The Committee recommends that the State party strengthens its efforts to develop a comprehensive system of disaggregated data collection in line with the Convention, with specific emphasis on more vulnerable children, and advises that the Solomon Islands seek technical assistance from institutions like UNICEF. The delegation child protection liaison shared statistics of the ministry of finance for child protection data but still need to exploit other solutions as it is an area that requires extra support.
- **Training and Dissemination:** The Committee urges the Solomon Islands to strengthen the role of the NAACC and implement cross-sectorial initiatives at national level, strengthen community awareness programmes and efforts to ensure that the provisions and principles of the Convention are widely recognised and understood in local languages, where children should play a key role; engage with community and parents in discussion on children's rights, particularly on issues such as gender discrimination, child marriage and child labour. The delegation mentioned that the National Children's Policy were not renewed because of a shortage of consultants. They hopefully expect that, by next month, the consultation will be clear, so they can have a base to create policy.
- **Non-discrimination:** The Committee recommends that the State party take more active measures to end all forms of discrimination against children, with special attention to discrimination against girls, children in rural areas and children with disabilities.
- **Children Deprived of a Family Environment:** The Committee was concerned at the absence of alternative care policy or minimum standards for regulating the alternative care of children. Likewise, they have demonstrated concern over the lack of a monitoring mechanism for those living with extended families as well as over the deficiency in the number of safe homes for children. The Commission has recommended to establish a system of foster care, safe homes for children and social welfare services for children who are deprived of their family environments and to provide all necessary social welfare services and support to families and alternative care providers. Concerning the topic of adoption, the



Committee advised the State party to develop regulations and guidelines for all stakeholders and to establish a unit to oversee formal adoption processes, providing it with adequate resources. In addition, they suggested the State party to increase awareness of formal adoption at the community level and promote formal domestic adoption, considering ratifying the 1993 Hague Convention No.33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption.

Sustainable Development Goals:

In its Concluding Observations, the Committee refers the following Sustainable Development Goals targets in its recommendations:

- Target 3.3 to end the epidemics of AIDS, malaria and TB and to combat, and other communicable diseases;
- Target 4.1 and 4.2 on ensuring that all girls and boys completely free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education and have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education;
- Target 13.5 on promoting mechanism for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management;

Next State report

CRC	
No. of report	4 th -6 th
Due date	9 th May 2023

Disclaimer: Child Rights Connect reports are all drafted in English. If the State report and/or the alternative reports were submitted in another UN language (Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian or Chinese) the report will be translated accordingly.