



Solomon Islands National Statement

General Debate - 17th Conference of State Parties of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

11th – 17th June, 2024

**Delivered by: Permanent Representative, H.E Mrs. Jane
Mugafalu Kabui Waetara**

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for giving my delegation this opportunity.

My delegation is honored to participate in this Conference, for first time as a state party, following my country's ratification of the Convention on 22nd June 2023 (just under a year ago).

The annual meeting of the Conference of State parties, to the CRPD provides an important space for the collective voice of the global community to promote issues relating to persons with disabilities.

Today we are here to add our voice and pledge to our commitment to the purpose and principles of the Convention. Furthermore, it demonstrates our solidarity with the global community, to advance the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Chair,

Over 10% of our population is experiencing various forms of disabilities. This is likely to increase with the high prevalence of non communicable diseases nationally. The plight of persons with disabilities is exacerbated by the impacts of climate change,

geographical spread of our islands, and competing priorities for limited resources.

To demonstrate commitment to the Convention, the Government recently established the National Disability Inclusive Development policy 2022 – 2031. This provides the framework for implementation and optimizes disability inclusion from public health focus to human rights and development issues such as, access to economic opportunities and improved education and health care services. The translation and implementation of this policy, however, requires a whole government approach together with stakeholders.

Other complimentary programs that forms an important integral part, of the care and services for persons with disabilities, are outlined in the Solomon Islands Rehabilitation Strategic Plan 2021-2031 and the Solomon Islands Mental Health Policy.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Solomon Islands is committed, to ensuring the full and effective participation of people with disabilities at all levels. We do recognize we have shortcomings, and therefore value partnerships that can enhance our efforts nationally. Currently, there are only 3 specialized schools in the country that provides training for children with disabilities. Provision of additional schools across the provinces with specialized trainers will ensure greater accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Mr Chair,

In conclusion, let us use this Conference to re-assess our global commitment, to ensure full, equal, meaningful and effective

participation of persons with disabilities at all levels. We believe the Summit of Future will provide a great opportunity that will propel us closer to the full realization of human rights for persons with disabilities and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.