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Mr. Chairman,

Solomon Islands would like to begin by aligning this statement with the Statements issued by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G 77 and China and statement issue by Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Countries.

The Commission on the Status of Women has been discussed for more than sixty years. It represents more than half of the UN membership and has been a series of events

frameworks, institutions and Summits. The challenge of improving the lives of women all over the world remains elusive.

Mr. Chairman,

The time has come for us to stop and think why and how best could we truly improve the quality of lives of all women despite all these frameworks and events. The fact is, little has been done by the world in closing the structural divide and inequalities that exists between women, in the North and those in the South. Increasing cost of food, fossil fuel, the impact of Climate Change, HIV/Aids and Malaria has further marginalized the women from the international financial and economic systems. The lack of progress on Doha negotiations, as well as the lack of implementation of international agreed frameworks has not helped. This is the 52<sup>nd</sup> Conference yet we sound like a broken record, saying the right things but have not matched words with resources.

Mr. Chairman,

We must now move beyond policy, to action oriented outcomes. Secondly the

Mr. Chairman,

As far as financing for gender equality and economic empowerment of women are concern, for many developing countries including Solomon Islands, major sources of finance are from three main areas: ODA, Trade and Government Taxes. Funds however

remain insufficient, placing the Government under financial strain that it has to borrow externally as a way out to finance much of its development programmes.

Such scenarios have placed many developing countries in debt. In the case of Solomon Islands, debt servicing accounts for 30% of the country's GDP. It is time to think outside of the box and examine innovative concepts. As far back as 2005, Philippines has proposed converting debts into MDG programmes allowing countries to use their domestic

resources to carry out, gender related activities. My delegation hopes the review of the Monterrey Consensus scheduled for this year will re-examine the concept with a serious eye.

Macro Credit scheme is a success story yet it fails to be used as a tool internationally in

