

SAMOA



STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NEW YORK

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Mr. Chairman distinguished delegate ladies and gentlemen

Samoa having ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child

welcomes the theme for the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of
Women on Sharing Responsibilities Between men and women including
caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS. In this context, Samoa would like to
reiterate its commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
including the Revised Pacific Platform for Action.

As a Pacific Island nation, Samoa is blessed with a unique culture that

guarantees the sharing of responsibilities within families and communities to

ensure that all

this focus in government's national development plan. Having said that, the

Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development has developed, used

and continues to use the Community Strengths Based Model to facilitate community engagement, community participation and community responsibility, thus contributing to enhanced community well-being.

sustainability of efforts to address many of the issues faced by women and children today. The use of the Community Strengths Based Model is one of the best practices Samoa as a Pacific nation will continue to use given the emphasis on using local strengths and the focus on truly engaging communities in the strive for gender equality and quality life for all. This model of programme intervention is used for addressing sensitive issues such as child

end of the scale with most of the responsibilities. These challenges and issues are now being addressed through the national policies for Women, Youth, Children and the National Policy on HIV/AIDS. Efforts towards law reform is under way and work has also begun with the drafting of a Domestic Violence legislation in line with the Concluding Comments of the UN CEDAW Committee

as well as the CEDAW and CRC Legislative Compliance Reviews that have been completed.

Mr Chairman,

In addressing these issues and challenges at national level Samoa recognizes the need for strong partnerships and sharing of responsibilities between government, NGOs and the church sector in achieving our results for women and children. Samoa further recognises the much needed financial and

acknowledge the opportunity to be part of this ...

We also welcome the sharing of lessons learnt, best practices and experiences
as a way to revisit our own country commitments for ...