



TUVALU

Statement

Delivered by

Dr. Stephen Homasi

at the

53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

New York, 2-13 March 2009

(Check Against Delivery)

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Chair
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

1. Let me first convey our Honourable Minister's sincere apologies and regrets for not being able to participate in this 53rd session of the Commission on the

Therefore, I am honoured to have this opportunity to address this session on his behalf.

2. Chair, my delegation wishes to join previous distinguished speakers in congratulating you for your election as Chair to preside over this session. With your able leadership we are confident that you will be able to bring this session to a successful conclusion.

3. My delegation also wishes to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the Honourable Minister of Women's Affairs from Niue on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Countries.

4. Chair, at the outset, Tuvalu welcomes the opportunity to discuss the theme for this session, *'the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men*

7. Choir women are often recognized as the principal caregivers in our society.