



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Name; **Loti Yates**
Title: **Director - NDMO**
Organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,
DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY**

Honourable Minister's, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring greetings from the Government & People of Solomon Islands.

As a nation with an archipelago of 922 islands spread over 1.32 million square kilometers of ocean, our vulnerability to natural hazards is a daily phenomenon.

Our annual population growth rate of 2.8% compounded by the impacts of global warming and climate change make finding the balance between the competing values of economic development and the need to focus investment on disaster risk reduction strategies a difficult one indeed.

Chair: Solomon Islands have come a long way in its commitment to set the course for disaster risk reduction and in the process has made a number of key achievements which have also been highlighted in our National HFA Progress Review. These include amongst others, the development of:

- the National Disaster Risk Management Plan – 2010

- the Provincial DRM Plan outline for managing disasters and risks including climate change & Village Disaster Risk Planning Template.

These documents provide the basis for:

- re-casting arrangements and procedures across sectors and levels of government for managing disasters when they occur.
- setting the institutional framework for addressing disaster and climate risk across sector and village practices and development.
- setting explicit structures, roles and accountability and provide guidance on functions and practices.

For the first time, we have prioritized in our Disaster Management Plan, the need to make disaster risk reduction gender-sensitive. Such an approach is simply smart economics as it combines the knowledge and capacities of women, men, and children. Disaster risk reduction is an efficient way to make our societies and communities both more gender sensitive and more disaster resilient at the same time.

As a small, isolated and fragile nation, many challenges lie ahead.

And as we continue to chart our way forward, we believe much hinges also on our ability to address the following:-

- Capacity
- Ownership
- Governance
- Sustainability

Conclusion:

Your Excellencies, in accepting the ever increasing frequency and intensity of disasters, the Solomon Islands has come a long way in making sure the lessons learnt from previous disasters are taken into consideration. In this respect, we welcome best practices from the global community so as to enrich our national efforts thereby achieving our common goal.

Thank you