



Participants to the Workshop pose in front of the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila, Vanuatu

14 August 2018

A workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Universal Periodic Review was convened at the MSG Secretariat.

Mr. Romulo Nayacalevu, Manager Governance and Legal Affairs for the MSG, says the workshop led by Vanuatu's Ministry of Justice aims to discuss the CEDAW and CRC concluding observations following the Government's reporting to the respective Committees and receiving their Concluding Observation in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

He says the Workshop also aims to support the Ministry of Justice's plans to streamline coordination and implementation of human rights commitments in supporting their reporting obligations. Mr Nayacalevu further stressed that the workshop aims to develop implementation plans for CEDAW and CRC Concluding Comments in line with Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 and other existing policy documents.

The MSG's partnership with SPC was based on a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding where MSG in partnership with SPC agreed to collaborate on areas of mutual interest to provide technical support to the governments within the sub-region.

The Director-General, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli noted and was pleased that the workshop is the first of its kind, in terms of joint collaboration on human rights between key development partners in responding to a Member State's request for such technical support and assistance. Ambassador Yauvoli congratulated the Government of Vanuatu and in particular, the Ministry of Justice for seizing the benefit of having the MSG Secretariat being located here in Port Vila to undertake such collaborations using its convening powers.

Ambassador Yauvoli, further observed that the MSG's 2018 Work Plan which was endorsed at our Governing Body meeting in February 2018 aimed to foster and provide closer support to the governments of MSG member countries on areas of national development priorities, which includes the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities and this workshop was in line with the Workplan.

The CEDAW and CRC Concluding Observations Implementation Workshop is led by the Vanuatu Ministry of Justice and supported by SPC, RRRT, UNICEF, UNWOMEN and the MSG.

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