



A PARLIAMENTARY PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER EQUALITY HOSTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF TONGA

**International Dateline Hotel, Nuku'alofa
13 – 14 September 2005**

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the Workshop on 'Parliamentary Perspectives on Gender Equality', held in Nuku'alofa, 13 – 14 September 2005, the participating Members of Parliament and members of the Public Service and Civil Society agreed the following recommendations for action:

1. The Government is requested to initiate the ratification of CEDAW immediately.
2. The Government is requested to consider –
 - Conducting a feasibility study on the various options, including the establishment of a separate ministry, to secure gender equality;
 - Establishing a Ministry for Women;
 - Reserving six seats in the Legislative Assembly as a quota for women at least for the next three elections, to be reviewed after that time; and
 - Changing all laws that discriminate against women and children.
3. All Government ministries are requested to consider exploring the benefits of gender responsive budgeting.
4. Government human and financial resources should be increased for gender equality initiatives and programmes.
5. CPA Tonga Branch should request the CPA Secretariat to hold a Women's Parliament for Tonga in 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.