



GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

MEDIA RELEASE

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“Tonga reaffirms commitment to gender equality at UN High-Level Meeting”

30 Years of Beijing Platform for Action

New York, 22 September 2025:- “Thirty years ago, the world came together in Beijing and made a promise to advance gender equality and empower women and girls through the Beijing Platform for Action. Today, on this 30th anniversary, Tonga stands proudly with the global community to reaffirm that promise” said the Hon.Sinaitakala Tu’itahi, Minister for Internal Affairs.

Today, the Hon.Sinaitakala Tu’itahi, Minister for Internal Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga, delivered Tonga’s national statement at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Hon. Minister Tu’itahi underscored Tonga’s tangible progress toward gender equality, including the enactment of the Family Protection Act, record-high female secondary school completion rates (91%), among the highest in the Pacific, implementation of the Public Service Commission’s Sexual Harassment Policy, expanded support for women-owned small and medium enterprises; and the pilot launch of the Integrated Aged Care Programme, recognizing women’s roles as caregivers and leaders in aging societies.

She called on the global community to prioritize gender-responsive budgeting, funding for gender-responsive climate and disaster resilience, and investment in women- and girl-led green economy initiatives.

Adopted in 1995 by 189 countries, the Beijing Platform remains the most comprehensive global roadmap for gender equality.

Tonga was proudly represented at its historic adoption by a 30-member delegation led by Her Late Majesty Queen Halaevalu Mata’aho and included trail blazing women leaders such as the late ‘Akosita Fineanganofa, Lady ‘Eseta Fusitu’a, Lady Tuna Fielakepa, Fuiva Kavaliku, Salamo Fulivai and youth delegates who included the CEO of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, ‘Akanesi F. Polotu Paunga, and Milika Tuita.

Acknowledging Tonga’s regional commitment, the Hon. Minister stated, “Tonga remains steadfast in advancing gender equality not as a side issue, but as central to our region’s resilience, sustainability, and sovereignty and reaffirms her commitment to the Blue Pacific 2050 Strategy, the Revitalized Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration and the Pacific Platform for Action”.

As the UN marks its 80th anniversary, Tonga reaffirms that multilateralism, grounded in human rights and inclusive development, remains essential to achieving lasting peace and equity across generations.

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