

Short Speech on the SPF workshop, Siem Reap, Cambodia; 29-31 May 2013

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Chair,

On behalf of the Pacific participants, Vanuatu and Solomon islands, I would like thank the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia and ILO for inviting us to this workshop.

Coming from the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs in Solomon Islands, the themes of the workshop's many sessions are not only relevant but valuable as well.

As a small country, Solomon Islands as also Vanuatu, has many challenges especially of the human capacity working in the related and relevant organizations. This affects the implementation of activities such as the initiatives of the Solomon Islands Decent Work programmes. Other challenges include geographical isolation and lack of good communication systems in the countries.

We in the Solomon Islands (and true for Vanuatu also) can only work within our limited human capacities and by noting our challenges. There is always a lot to work on.

The way forward for us is to have more collaborations and consultations within the country and in the Pacific sub-region, especially with the ILO, Aid Donors and other concerned stakeholders.

Finally, I do value the lessons learned, good practices and innovations that we learned in the workshop. In the Pacific we may be the last to go on board with regards to the implementation of Social Protection Floors, but we do not need to re-invent the "Wheel".

Once again, thank you very much.