



**Solomon Islands Health Minister's intervention at the WHA Meeting 2023 on Agenda Item 12 - Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030).**

Thank you Chair for this opportunity. From the report, there are significant progresses made and I take note of the remarkable improvements in access to reproductive, maternal, new born, child and adolescent health services that were observed in the Western Pacific Region.

On our achievements, Solomon Islands has completed its first Sexual, Reproductive Maternal, New Born, Child and Adolescent Health Policy Survey in 2023.

Also in early this year we have commenced the roll out of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) coaching to improve survival of preterm and low-birth-weight babies. Coaching on Kangaroo care is currently being rolled out to the provinces and we hope to cover all our provinces by the end of this year.

In 2019, the New Antenatal Care (ANC) Guidelines were adopted by MHMS with five key interventions: nutritional interventions, maternal and fetal assessment, preventive measures, interventions and health system interventions to improve the utilization and quality of ANC.

However, as highlighted in the report, **inequalities in access** to and quality of Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescents (RMNCAH) health, remains a huge challenge, Solomon Islands included. Therefore, it is important that we continue to strengthen ways in which the vulnerable members of our society, those who are disadvantaged by age, sex, disability etc to also participate meaningfully at decision making levels and implementation of Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescent programs and services.

Once again thank you chair.