

vention". He emphasised Melanesian support for R2P and its "...leadership in embedding it, in socialising it on the ground." Mr Okoth-Obbo highlighted the significance of localisation of R2P, and the role of regional organisations like MSG in regional security and conflict prevention.

MSG Director General Mr Leonard Louma, OBE was proud to host the launch and said "I firmly believe that the R2P framework will assist provide practical tools to assist our governments contribute to monitoring, risk assessment and early warning on atrocities".

Human rights-civil society dialogue

On Thursday 27 July, the APR2P Centre, in partnership with the Chair of the Vanuatu Human Rights Network, Anne Pakoa, co-hosted a dialogue for women human rights defenders and civil society actors. The talanoa involved representatives from organisations including Vanuatu Women Against Crime and Corruption (WACC), Dolasa Association, and the Vanuatu Young Women's Association. An overview of atrocity prevention and the connections with gender-based violence was provided, followed by discussion of issues for women in Vanuatu, including violence, traditional gender roles and institutional / cultural discrimination against women, governance and accountability, the importance of civil spaces and legislative reform, and the role of police. Participants also highlighted issues affecting youth like substance abuse, crime, and suicide.

The gendered impacts of climate change were raised, such as increased domestic violence, and women bearing the brunt of blame for resource and food scarcity. Another issue that came up was the importance of political representation of women for allowing women's voices to be heard. Participants agreed that a further, more in depth (and possibly regional) workshop on human rights, women's rights, and atrocity prevention, would be valuable.

Other meetings

Finally, the APR2P Centre met with the Director of the Pacific Fusion Centre, James Movick, to discuss common priorities and strategies around regional security, conflict prevention, and risk assessment. The PFC is an important element of the Pacific regional security architecture.



It was agreed at the workshop that MSG members would reaffirm their commitment to R2P in relevant forums, and undertake inter-agency consultation to identify existing policies that support atrocity prevention. There was a broad commitment to follow up training sessions by MSG and APR2P targeted towards particular elements of MSG governments, such as security sector, police, defence departments, foreign affairs departments, and also with national and regional networks of defence ministers, police ministers, and other forums.

Pacific launch of Framework for Action

The Framework for Action on R2P, which came out earlier in July, was officially launched at the MSG Secretariat at 4pm on 25 July – the first in the Asia Pacific region to host a launch event.

Opening remarks were offered by the Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Heidi Bootle, who noted the long history of support for R2P among Pacific nations and urged representatives of Melanesian states to use the R2P Framework for Action within their departments.

R2P Pacific Director Romulo Nayacalevu briefly spoke on the R2P Framework for Action and introduced the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on R2P, Mr George Okoth-Obbo, who joined the event via zoom. The Special Adviser said it was "profound" to speak to the subregional focus of Melanesia on the "pathway of pre-

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