

63rd Session of the Human Rights Council
ITEM 6: UPR Adoption
24 September 2026

Delivered by: Brother Worrick Marako
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Mr. President,

We welcome the adoption of the UPR Report of the Solomon Islands. We commend the Government for the acceptance of all recommendations related to the impacts of logging and mining operations on human rights, the environment and climate change.

Through our longstanding history of pastoral engagements with communities across the Solomon Islands, we have witnessed firsthand the human and environmental consequences of these operations. They have led to the pollution of water and food sources, destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity, increased vulnerability to climate change impacts, and sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls.

Logging and mining operations must be conducted in a manner that safeguards the land rights of local communities through equitable benefit-sharing arrangements and the free, prior and informed consent of affected populations. Robust and effective human rights and environmental impact assessments and monitoring should be conducted throughout the lifespan of these operations.

We would like to emphasise three legislative changes, which, if implemented, could address deep, longstanding structural issues in our country, and create a better future for all Solomon Islanders:

1. The adoption of the latest iteration of the Forestry Bill, pending before the Attorney General's Office;
2. The adoption of the Mineral Resources Bill of 2025, currently before Parliament; and
3. The amendment of the Islanders' Marriage Act of 1945 to increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 years, being reviewed by the Law Commission.

We stand ready to engage collaboratively with the Government towards the full and effective implementation of the UPR recommendations within our communities.

Thank you.