

**Joint Statement by the Federated States of Micronesia,
Solomon Islands, Tonga and Nauru**

**Fiftieth session of the United Nations
Commission on Population and Development
*“Changing Population age structure and sustainable development.”***

**United Nations Headquarters, New York,
5th April 2017**

Madam Chair,

I have the hono

It is essential to eliminate all forms of neglect, abuse, and violence against older

We would like to make clear that we do not view the promotion of abortion as a means of achieving sustainable development. We want to remind the Commission that the promotion of abortion as a method of family planning is contrary to the ICPD, and that it is also a great departure from long established religious and societal norms in some of our countries, and this dynamic must be respected.

Finally, Madam Chair, we would like to call on the UN system to provide support in building capacities and ensuring adequate and sustainable financing for achieving sustainable development in the context of changing age structures.

We acknowledge the primary responsibility of our Nations for their own sustainable development. However, the persistent development challenges of SIDS require enhanced global partnership and greater access to the Means of Implementation (MOI). This cooperation can be transformational for our countries if pursued in the spirit of mutual understanding of our challenges and respect for our differences.

Thank you.