

***Gender Equality Symposium and FIFA Women's World Cup side events, Meanjin, Brisbane Australia
27th & 28th July 2023.***

PRESS RELEASE: The Honorable Minister of Finance and her delegation attended the Gender Equality Symposium and FIFA's Women's World Cup side events, in Meanjin, Brisbane Australia on the 27th and 28th July 2023. The symposium brought together a host of global leaders, sports champions, human rights advocates, and emerging female leaders from across the world and the Pacific region. The symposium was co-hosted by Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Hon. Anika Wells, MP, Minister for Sport, and Aged care, with the aim of inspiring generations towards gender equality.

The Symposium was a two-day event and Samoa's delegation was led by the Minister of Finance, Hon Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molio'o who was invited by Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and was accompanied by Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu, senior lawyer, Consultant and international sports official who attended as a Pacific leader from Samoa, and Aualiitia Sine Lafaialii Koria, Manager Legal for the Samoa National Provident Fund as the adviser specifically for her role in the establishment of the legal framework for people with disabilities.

The Symposium was a two-day event which opened with a welcome ceremony hosted by Hon. Penny Wong, and the inaugural Ambassador for First Nations People: Justin Mohammed at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art. A Reverse Mentoring session was conducted which paired Australian and Pacific leaders with Australian and Pacific emerging Youth and Sports delegates, which was hosted by Hon. Tom Watts, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and attended by the delegation's Taulapapa Brenda. This event was held in parallel to a 'kick around' between Hon. Penny Wong and the heads of delegations, with the Afghanistan women's football team players. The first day then concluded with all delegates attending the FIFA Women's World Cup match between Australia and Nigeria held at Suncorp Stadium.

The second day of the Symposium began with a Breakfast event hosted by Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon Anika Wells, Minister for Sport and Aged Care and Hon Katy Gallagher Minister of Finance, Women and the Public Service, and featured a welcome speech by the Queensland Premier Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk.

The Gender Symposium took place on Friday 28th July and the participants heard from various global leaders on their experiences in driving gender equality especially in sports, including the first female Secretary General of FIFA: Madame Fatma Samoura. A surprise speaker was the US Secretary of State: Antony Blinken who spoke of the US's approach to Gender Equality.

The Symposium also provided a unique opportunity for the Honorable Minister Mulipola to attend bilateral meetings firstly with the Queensland Government Treasurer, and Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon Cameron Dick, as well as the inaugural Queensland Government Trade and Investment Commissioner for the Pacific Ms. Leata Ala'imoana Roberts followed by a bilateral with the Hon. Katy Gallagher, the Federal Minister for Finance, Women, and the Public Service.

The delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Queensland Women's Health and Equality Queensland where they discussed and shared stories about advancing women's health and equality as well as access to public health services both in Australia and Samoa.

The Honourable Minister wishes to convey her most sincere appreciation and thanks to the Honourable Minister Wong and Honourable Minister Wells for hosting such a successful and inspiring event and their kind invitation to attend, and very much looks forward to working together with Australia to further develop gender equality in Samoa and deepening our ongoing relationship with the Government and people of Australia.

The Honorable Minister was delighted to meet with young Samoan women who are making their mark in the world such as: **Sarai Bareman** who is the inaugural Chief Women's Football Officer who started her

football administration career representing Samoa as a player and then Finance Manager and eventually CEO of the Football Federation of Samoa, then Deputy Secretary General for the Oceania Football Confederation and the only woman on the FIFA Reforms Committee before her appointment to Chief of Women's Football.

Leata Ala'imoana-Roberts is the inaugural Trade and Investment Commissioner for the Queensland Government having had extensive experience in Aviation Investment and Business, with previous roles as Manager of Aviation & Aerospace for the Queensland Government, and as Impact Investment Manager for Pacific Trade Invest Australia.

Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu was selected in recognition as her appointment as the first woman official from the Pacific to be appointed as a Judicial Officer by World Rugby for this year's Rugby World Cup 2023 (being held in France from September to October 2023). Taulapapa has been chosen along with two other Samoans (selected from New Zealand), who also join her on the World Cup Disciplinary Committee being former Manu Samoa and Highlanders player District Court Judge Mike Mika, and former All Black and Manu Samoa player: Aiolupotea Ofisa Tonu'u (Jr).

So there will be Manu Samoa playing on the field, and also part of the World Rugby organization, and all join Sarai Bareman at FIFA as global ambassadors for sport, from Samoa, which is something we can all celebrate and honor God's great provision and blessings upon our land.



Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, the Hon Anika Wells, the Hon Tim Watts, MP with Heads of delegation



Samoa's Head of Delegation the Honourable Minister of Finance Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molioo with Sarai Bareman, Chief Women's Football Officer, FIFA, Leata Alaimoana-Roberts, Queensland Trade and Investment Commissioner for the Pacific, Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu and Aualiitia Sine Lafaiailii Korua



Head of Delegation Honourable Minister of Finance, Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molioo, first female Minister of Finance for Samoa, Sarai Bareman, first Chief of Women's Football Officer, FIFA and Fatma Samoura, first female Secretary General of FIFA