**Questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/RES/28/4 on human rights and climate change)**

1. Please describe the impacts of the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls, where possible, share specific examples and stories.

Women and girls are the first responders to any climate change and disasters occurring in Vanuatu. Women have a caring and nurturing role and in the event of a disaster and impacts of climate change, their first thoughts, would be oriented towards saving their children, their family members who are elderly or living with disability. On many occasions, women are not consulted when climate change and disaster risk reduction projects are created by donors. These projects are top-down and not bottom-up approaches where it is the communities and women and girls that have an input into the project’s designs and success.

1. Please describe any relevant commitments, legislation and other measures that you have taken to promote a gender-responsive approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local, national, regional and international level and to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls impacted by the adverse effects of climate change. Please include relevant mechanisms used to promote accountability and/or implementation.

Working as the former Country Manager of Live & Learn Vanuatu, we partnered with the UNDP on a Pacific Risk Resilience Project which assisted to create area council development plans and disaster risk reduction and mitigation plans for various communities we worked in. I held the position of Gender and Social Inclusion Officer in the PRRP. During the creation of the Food Security Knowledge Hubs in the communities, Live & Learn Vanuatu, made it a mandatory requirement to have 50 percent female committee members. Out of ten Knowledge Hub Network members, 5 were women and the other 5 were men. Women were always effective in community work and having them in the Food Security Knowledge Hubs would ensure that planting materials were distributed fairly to all members of the community to grow food for themselves and their nuclear families.

1. Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how the adverse effects of climate change have affected women and girls taking into account multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

No academic research had been undertaken to provide data in terms of households receiving T/C Pam relief supplies after March 2015. Some single mothers did not benefit at all from the distribution of relief supplies. However, working with our Women against Crime and Corruption (WACC) Network, we assisted by distributing Heart-to-Heart Bags comprising basic essential items like tooth brush, tooth paste, soap and hygiene products to help victims of the cyclone. There were complaints that many households did not receive the required relief supplies during distribution. Furthermore, many of the relief supplies were withheld and not distributed to the victims of the cyclone. Because goods in some containers were not distributed in time and had expired, they had to be destroyed. There is also reports of the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) staff members and volunteers personally benefitting from these supplies such as tarpaulins, food rations and so forth. In future, it would be good to have a Women’s Desk Officer included into the NDMO Distribution Network so that fair, transparent and accountable distribution of relief supplies is undertaken.

1. Please describe mechanisms and tools, which can be used to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls.

While working as the PRRP Gender and Social Inclusion Officer, I utilized the Floating Coconut Toolkit to explain the paid and unpaid work that women undertook to ensure that their communities were functioning effectively. Through the Floating Coconut Toolkit, we raised awareness on the human rights of women and girls in Imaio Village in the Whitesands Area of Tanna [see VCAN Desk Review Report which is attached].

1. Please identify and share examples of good practices and challenges in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of women and girls in the context of the adverse effects of climate change. Please include examples that highlight multilateral cooperation, gender mainstreaming, gender responsive approaches and the full meaningful and effective participation of women and girls in relevant decision-making process.

The mechanism of including women into the PRRP Food Security Knowledge Hubs is an example of gender mainstreaming. A gender-responsive approach is now undertaken through the Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN) where members of this Network includes INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, FBOs, CBOs, men, women, people living with disabilities, and youths can assemble to receive the required capacity-building training and talk about their work experiences in climate change and disaster risk reduction in the communities they are attached to and how they integrate gender-responsive approaches into their work. [See recent VCAN Desk Review Report completed in September 2018 and the VCAN Policy Training given to VCAN Network Members in August 2018 which are attached].

1. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support efforts to integrate a gender-responsive approach to climate change action in the local, national, regional and international level for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women and girls.

As Country Manager of Live & Learn Vanuatu, I learned that when men make decisions at the community-level and do not integrate a gender-responsive approach to climate change action in the local level, it is women who suffer because they are the first responders to any climate change impacts and disasters. When Live & Learn Vanuatu worked with the Mele Community on Efate to introduce a WASH compost toilet. Men decided that the toilet would be constructed near the Community Hall and Presbyterian Church with the toilet’s exterior facing the road. When the compost toilet was completed, none of the women would use it. During a monitoring and evaluation visit, it was discovered that the location of the compost toilet was too noticeable. As vehicles were driving along Mele Village, they would be able to see people climbing up the stairs to access the compost toilets. The women did not want to use the toilets because they felt embarrassed that it was publicly located rather than privately located for them to use. Had the men integrated a gender-responsive approach, they would be building the compost toilets in a location that is more private and also responded to the needs of disabled persons in wheelchairs, so their compost toilets will need to be level to the ground for their easy access and use.