

24. Diplomacy

The Solomon Islands began to play a role in international relations onwards from independence in 1978. Initially, the government appointed roving ambassadors who were responsible for relations with many nations. Today, the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade maintains diplomatic mission to the United Nations in New York, to UNESCO in Paris, and has diplomatic missions or is accredited in seven nations or groupings around the world: Australia, Cuba, the European Community, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and the United Kingdom. Countries with diplomatic missions in Solomon Islands are Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and the United Kingdom. The US Ambassador to Papua New Guinea is accredited to Solomon Islands, and Canada, France, Germany, Israel, South Korea, Sweden and Malaysia have Honorary Consuls.

Solomon Islands is a member of the United Nations, UNESCO, the Commonwealth of Nations, South Pacific Commission, Pacific Islands Forum, the International Monetary Fund, the European Economic Community, and the African, Caribbean, Pacific Group.



24.1. Raising the Solomon Island flag for the first time at the United Nations headquarters in New York in 1978. Prime Minister Sir Peter Kenilorea and his wife Margaret, Lady Kenilorea, are on the left. (United Nations Organisation Archives)



24.2. Prime Minister Sir Peter Kenilorea about to speak at the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York in 1978, accompanied by Ambassador Francis Bugotu. (United Nations Organisation Archives)



24.3. Solomon Islands delegation at the United National General Assembly. In the front row (L to R) are Sir Peter Kenilorea, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Francis Saemala, Ambassador to the United Nations, and Robert Sisilo, Counsellor of the Solomon Islands Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Behind them (L to R) are Arnold Smith, Honorary Solomon Islands Consul in Washington D.C., and Pattleson Oti, then Principal Desk Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the current High Commissioner to Fiji and Vanuatu. (United Nations Organisation Archives)



24.4. Prime Minister Sir Peter Kenilorea and Ambassador Francis Bugotu meeting with US President Jimmy Carter and Senator John Glen, 1978. (Sir Peter Kenilorea Collection)



24.5. Meeting of the South Pacific Forum, 1979. Prime Minister Peter Kenilorea is in the middle of the group. (Sir Peter Kenilorea Collection)



24.6. Solomon Islands delegation at the United Nations General Assembly, 2006, L to R: Jeremiah Manele, Dr John Roughan, and Foreign Minister Patteson Oti. (United Nations Organisation Archives)



24.7. Foreign Minister Laurie Chan, speaking at the United Nations General Assembly. (United Nations Organisation Archives)



24.8. Prime Minister Danny Philip with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Li-moon. (United Nations Organisation Archives)



24.9. Solomon Islands formally established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba in 2002 and in 2007 signed cooperation agreements for Cuban doctors to work in Solomon Islands and for Solomon Islands medical students to train in Cuba. An embassy was opened in 2013 with H.E. Simeon Bouro as the resident ambassador, the first from any Pacific nation. The Republic of Cuba has provided 110 scholarships for Solomon Islands medical students. Since 2014 there have been 54 graduates. This student group is with H. E. Simeon Bouro (right) at a celebration for Solomon Islands Independence Day, 2016.



24.10. Standing at the front entrance of the Solomon Islands High Commission in Canberra, Australia: Mrs Helen Beck, Counsellor of Solomon Islands High Commission, Fiona Indu, Deputy High Commissioner. and back (L to R), Lote Raboila Umari, Second Secretary, Fiji High Commission, H.E. Yogesh Punja, Fiji High Commissioner, H.E. Collin Beck, Solomon Islands High Commissioner and Mr Leonaitasi Puli Ki Pulotu Kuluni, First Secretary, High Commission of the Kingdom of Tonga February 2017. (Source: H.E. Collin Beck)



24.11. Solomon Islands High Commission, Canberra, Australia. (



24.12. Thirty-six years after independence, in 2016 the Solomon Islands Government opened its first diplomatic post in New Zealand and for the first time appointed a woman as Head of Mission, H.E. Mrs Joy Kere. The photograph is of H.E. Joy Kere with the Governor-General of New Zealand, Lt Gen the Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae at the presentation of her credentials. (Source: Office of the Governor General of New Zealand)



24.13. The High Commissioner for Solomon Islands H.E. Mrs Joy Kere inspects the members of the Honour Guard at Government House. (Source: Office of the Governor General of New Zealand)



24.14. The April 2017 Diplomatic corps farewell for New Zealand Foreign Minister Murry McCully. His term from 2009 to 2017 was significant to Solomon Islands, important years for the development of bilateral relations, development cooperation and RAMSI. H.E. Mrs Joy Kere is standing in the centre of the group. (Source: New Zealand Government)



24.15. In April 2017 Hon. Milner Tozaka OBE, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade and H.E. Joy Kere, High Commissioner to New Zealand visited a group of Solomon Islands seasonal workers at Hastings. The Seasonal Workers Program (NZ RSE) enables labour mobility and is an important priority. NZ RSE is currently the flagship programme for Solomon Islands overseas workers, involving 611 in 2017. (Source: H.E. Joy Kere)