



Statement of the Republic of Fiji at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Ms. Namita Khatri, 17 November 2014.

Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, allow me to align this statement with that delivered by Barbadoes on behalf of the Small Island Developing States.

Co-Chairs, on behalf of the Fijian delegation I wish to thank you for all the work conducted in the inter-sessional period through a series of informal consultations that canvassed views of Member States and Major Groups. These consultations have resulted in the zero draft which will be the basis for negotiations at this Prep Comm.

Fiji also notes the work conducted by the Informal Working Group on Targets and Indicators on the targets listed in the zero draft document, and emphasises that the targets and indicators will be at the core of any implementation of the HFA2 framework. As such, they need to be carefully articulated. The Fijian delegation assures you of Fiji's support in our collective efforts to arrive at a constructive document for the post-2015 disaster risk management framework in a consensual manner.

Co-chairs, at the first Preparatory Committee in July, the Fijian delegation outlined the initiatives at the national level in Fiji, and at the regional level in the Pacific, and in particular on the integrated approach taken on climate change and disaster risk management.

Since then, Fiji convened its first ever National Platform for disaster risk management and climate change in August which drew from the two existing programs on climate change and DRR, identified gaps within, and proposed a way forward to harmonise them with a view to integration. Recognising that any programme on disaster risk management and climate change will require ownership and implementation by all stakeholders to be effective, the National platform meeting included representation at all levels and across society, including village leaders, district and provincial administrators, government,

private sector and civil society members. Special groups such as women, persons with disabilities, older persons and youths were well represented and they made significant contributions towards an inclusive meeting structure and outcome. Fiji supports a similarly inclusive approach at the global level in articulating the HFA2 framework.

The other major development in the Pacific, which will guide this delegation's participation in this preparatory committee was the holding of the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in September 2014, in Samoa, and those parts of the Conference outcomes document that are relevant to climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Co-Chairs, the S.A.M.O.A Pathways document acknowledge the special case of small island developing states and their unique and particular vulnerabilities, as well as the disproportionate impact that disasters can have on SIDS. It acknowledged that disasters have increased in intensity and been exacerbated by climate change. The international community committed to supporting the efforts of SIDS in disaster risk reduction and management. Such support includes;

- Supporting SIDS efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, and to work for an ambitious post-2015 framework that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation and incorporates implementation frameworks to address implementation gaps if and when they exist;
- promoting cooperation and investment in disaster risk management in the public and private sectors, establishing and strengthening risk insurance facilities at the national and regional levels and place disaster risk management and building resilience at the centre of policies and strategies; and
- support for SIDS to gain access to technical assistance and financing for, inter alia, early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and post-disaster response and recovery, risk assessment and data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programmes, including under the Global Framework for Climate Services, and disaster risk management;
- the mainstreaming of policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development.

Instead, allow me to just say that this delegation will be looking to ensure that relevant elements of the SIDS outcomes document are incorporated into the post-2015 DRR framework, and trusts that partners in the international community will honour their commitments when negotiating our outcomes document here.

Here I should acknowledge and thank co-Chairs for including climate change as a significant risk factor of disasters, as this is central to any discussion of disasters in Fiji and in the wider PSIDS region. [In line with the agreement at the 6th Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management that the regional Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific will be a source of strategic guidance for action related to climate and disaster resilient development in the Pacific at the regional, national, subnational and community level, this delegation will seek to draw closer linkages between these two sectors, to build more resilient and adaptive communities.] We look forward to building on what is already in the zero draft so as to achieve an outcomes document that is concrete, and implementable. Such an outcomes document will require appropriate means of implantation are built into it.

Finally, co-Chairs, a brief thought on process. We have two days at this Prep Committee to go through what is a detailed text. Allow me to echo what was said by Ambassador Williams of Barbados. If we are indeed going to require two additional blocks of days in December and January to continue negotiations of our outcomes documents outside of what was set aside for the PrepComms in the GA resolution, SIDS delegations travelling from afar must be assisted to participate, as this would not have been foreseen in our planning, and given the importance of DRR to SIDS.

I thank you Co-Chairs.