



**HON. MR OSEA NAIQAMU**  
MINISTER FOR FORESTS  
REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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**STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
60<sup>th</sup> IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

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**Vienna  
AUSTRIA**

**29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016**

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*Mr. President*

*Excellencies*

*Distinguished Delegates*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

Introduction

1. I am pleased to be here at the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the IAEA in Vienna. At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Excellency, on your appointment to the presidency. We are confident of your effective and decisive stewardship of the 60th session into 2017. On that note, we also wish to thank the outgoing President for his successful stewardship in steering the Agency's work towards the successful

outcomes during his tenure.

### Pacific SIDS in the IAEA

*Mr President,*

2. We congratulate St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and the Islamic Republic of the Gambias, and I take this time to join the others before me, in warmly welcoming our new members into the IAEA.
3. Mr. President the ever growing demand for and availability of nuclear technologies and applications is obliging us to call for intensified endeavours to enhance the support to member countries in the IAEA. Fiji attaches utmost importance to the responsible uses of nuclear energy and technologies for peaceful purposes in all areas of IAEA's expertise and competence. I wish to therefore reiterate our emphasis of the high incidence of cancer-related mortalities in Low and Middle Income Countries or LMICs. This is certainly the case in the Pacific region, with a majority of these cancer victims being women: our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters, productive members of our Pacific societies that are fighting a losing battle against this dreadful disease.

4. We are presently working with the IAEA, to put in place a cancer radiotherapy centre in Fiji that will service the Pacific in the provision of essential preventative, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care services for the people of our region.
5. Mr. President, we have a moral obligation, to ensure the affordable access of nuclear technology to redress the scourge of cancer. Many of affected peoples often, the forgotten millions across the global divide, to what is often considered a basic medical service in developed countries consistent with SDG3 which seeks to “ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages”.
6. We are grateful to the IAEA Secretariat for their valuable support towards the implementation of Fiji’s first Country Programme, for the periods 2016 to 2021. As mentioned earlier, we are also excited at the prospects of establishing in Fiji, the Pacific region’s first Cancer Radiotherapy Centre in our capital city, Suva.

7. Mr. President, we wish to also inform this august institution of a new regional organisation called the Pacific Islands Development Forum, otherwise known as the PIDF. The PIDF was established in 2013 to champion the sustainable development priorities of the 14 Pacific SIDS, and is headquartered in Suva. Through the agenda of stakeholder collaboration and partnership as outlined in the SIDS SAMOA Pathway for the enhancement of sustainable development, we would like to have the IAEA consider the services of the PIDF as a potential regional vehicle to mainstream sustainable development strategies under the new Agenda 2030 for the region.
  
8. Recognising the mantra of the post-2015 development agenda of “leaving no one behind”, the PIDF constitution welcomes civil society groups, private sector representatives, church groups, media organisations and other non-state actors. Together, they sit at the table with Pacific government officials as partners in development on the 17 SDGs that we all seek to realise by the year 2030.

## Fiji's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Agenda in the IAEA

*Mr President,*

9. As a small island developing state, Fiji recognises the important mandate that the IAEA is proactively pursuing at the global level towards the maintenance of peace and security; and through regional and national sustainable development strategies via the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the areas of climate change; food security; renewable energy; human health; water resource management; sustainable agriculture; amongst others.
  
10. With some of our Pacific Island countries already sinking beneath the waves, their very existence under grave threat; we look to the IAEA for sustainable solutions in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The fact that 13 out of the 17 SDGs have clear linkages to the IAEA mandate through the utilisation of Science, Technology and Innovation, Fiji's membership in this forum has never been better placed.

11. The Pacific region is the most isolated and neglected region in the world. Today, we appeal to our development partners across the globe to engage with us, through South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives to lift our Pacific peoples out of poverty, to survive the destructive impacts of climate change so that they may also live decent and honourable lives.
  
12. Mr President, I wish to congratulate you again on your appointment and I wish congratulate the Agency again on the occasion of its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and many successful years ahead.

I thank you.

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