



## FIJI NATIONAL STATEMENT

69th Session of the IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

16 September 2025

Vienna, Austria

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*Mr President*

*Excellencies*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

Bula Vinaka.

I extend the well wishes from the Government and People of Fiji.

I congratulate His Excellency Peter Burian on assuming the Presidency of this Session.

In thanking His Excellency Sang Wook Ham for his able stewardship of this Assembly's 68th session, I wish to also commend Director General Rafael Grossi for his leadership role in guiding the Secretariat and the work of the IAEA.

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*Excellencies*, at this critical juncture of many unprecedented challenges that we face as a global community, Fiji reiterates its long-standing support for multilateralism and our recognition of the indispensable rules-based international order.

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*Mr President, Ladies & Gentlemen,* At the 54th Pacific Islands Forum in the Solomon Islands just last week, Pacific leaders endorsed the "Ocean of Peace Declaration". They launched the Pacific Resilience Facility as key outcomes for a resilient Blue Pacific, while reaffirming our region's commitment to a nuclear-free identity by commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Rarotonga.

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*Ladies and Gentlemen, and Excellencies,* Fiji commends and appreciates the continuous support from the IAEA through technical cooperation projects focusing on strengthening agricultural resilience and food security via mutation breeding, addressing climate change impacts through isotope hydrology for water resources, establishing radiotherapy facilities for health, and managing legacy radioactive sources.

As a member state since 2012, IAEA's technical assistance has been targeted towards Fiji's achievement of its national development goals, with a particular focus on food and agriculture, health, water, and environmental protection.

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Last year, Fiji accepted the modified small quantities protocol and has since been providing declarations on its additional protocol, the latest of which was submitted last week.

Additionally, in 2024, with the support of IAEA experts, Fiji successfully extracted and exported disused radioactive sources to the USA for cancer treatment purposes.

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*Ladies and Gentlemen*, Fiji values the importance of working with the IAEA for security and safety purposes, and this includes hosting technical missions, compiling its source inventory and working with border agencies; encouraging national regulators to monitor operations continuously, and holding its national interagency of IAEA counterparts every quarter to ensure that accountability by agencies and monitoring of activities and programmes are maintained.

I also wish to inform this Assembly that Fiji is now working towards its first National Nuclear Security Policy.

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*Mr President, Ladies & Gentlemen*, Fiji is currently the chair of the Regional Cooperative Agreement of the IAEA, having hosted national representatives from Asia and the Pacific in Fiji in May, and chairing the RCA General Conference Meeting last Friday in preparation towards this conference.

We do not and will not take this chairmanship lightly - but will ensure that our region, the Pacific, will also have an opportunity to advocate and create awareness on our region's priorities and challenges.

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I wish to take this opportunity, *Mr President and Members of the Conference*, to call on the importance of the representation of all IAEA member states in a regional grouping.

Fiji is one of the 13 member states currently excluded from any regional grouping and, in this regard, supports continuous calls by Kazakhstan for Inclusivity and Equality in the IAEA.

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In conclusion, Fiji reaffirms its commitment to the IAEA mandate and its obligations under various treaties and instruments.

Fiji remains committed to raising awareness in the Pacific in support of the IAEA and its principles, with a call for a nuclear-free region.

We may have achieved much, but much more remains to be done.

The decisions we take today, whether we act on them or not, will shape the future that we hand over to those following us.

I thank you.

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