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REPUBLIC OF FIJI

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE
59th IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

Vienna
AUSTRIA

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[Please check against delivery]

Mr. President

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

1. I am pleased to be here at the 59th 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 59th session into 2016. On that note, we also wish to thank the outgoing President for his crucial role in steering the Agency's work towards the successful outcomes during

his tenure.

Pacific SIDS in the IAEA

Mr President,

2. The Agency has gained three additional members this year. We congratulate Djibouti, Guyana and Vanuatu and warmly welcome them into the IAEA fold. The inclusion of Vanuatu, in particular, has now increased the representation of Pacific Small Island Developing States (or PSIDS) to five out of a total of 14 members; and we anticipate this number to increase over the coming years.
3. In the Director General's remarks on Monday, he alluded to the high incidence of cancer-related mortalities in Low and Middle Income Countries (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. To date, there is no existing cancer radiotherapy centre to provide the essential preventative, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care services for the people of our region.

5. Indeed, as mentioned by previous speakers, the international community represented here in the Agency should recognise as our moral obligation, the affordable access by the forgotten millions across the global divide, to what is considered a basic medical service in developed countries. This is consistent with SDG3 which seeks to “ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all, at all ages”.
6. Since Fiji’s membership in 2012, we are grateful to the IAEA Secretariat for their valuable support towards the signing of our first Country Programme Framework yesterday, for the period 2016 to 2021. We are also excited at the prospects of eventually witnessing Fiji’s (and the region’s) first Cancer Radiotherapy Centre to be based in our capital city, Suva. This is one of the projects that have been included under Fiji’s TC programme for the next five year period.
7. A new regional organisation called the Pacific Islands Development Forum (also known as PIDF), established in 2013 to champion the sustainable development priorities of the 14 Pacific SIDS is headquartered in Suva. Through close and effective collaboration

with other technical organisations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and inclusive dialogue with the Pacific Islands Forum, the PIDF is Fiji's preferred regional vehicle to mainstream sustainable development strategies under the new UN post-2015 development agenda in our 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. Amidst the vortex of the state of play in global affairs, we have faith

in humanity to secure a working formula towards the sustainable development of all mankind, one that can only thrive in the necessary environment of world peace and security. On that note, Mr President, we wish you and the membership of the Agency another successful year ahead.

I thank you.

-ENDS-

[Approx. 7 minutes]