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Bula Vinaka and greetings from Fiji.

Madam Chair,

Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the 57th session of the commission on population and development and I assure you of Fiji's support during the session. Fiji is confident that with your leadership madam chair, our 57th session will be a success.

This statement is aligned with the statement delivered on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations. It will be remiss of me not to acknowledge and commend the three respective reports prepared by the Secretary-General that reflects the status quo of the global implementation of the ICPD PoA.

I have the honor to renew and reaffirm Fiji's commitment to the ICPD Program of Action. Implementing the Program of Action is a priority and ensuring that our development strategies are inclusive and people centered.

In this connection, the Coalition Government priority this year is the formulation of a new 3-year, 5-year and 20-year National Development Plan that sets our collective vision and key initiatives and programs that will allow the nation to grow sustainably in the short and medium term.

The key fundamental of Government's development agenda is inclusive development, to improve the well-being of all our citizens. Nationwide consultations have already been completed and we have been encouraged by the participation of different communities in Fiji. Improving the social wellbeing of the people and bringing greater prosperity to the people and nation is at the heart of the NDP. In our effort are people centered the NDP is being configured as a "Plan of the people for the people" with an immediate focus on "Getting the Basics Right" – fixing our water woes, fixing our drainage issues, lifting health service delivery, maintenance of public assets, building our transport infrastructure and fighting the drugs problem.

Madam Fiji biggest challenge climate change and the enormity of the climate crisis threatens our security and livelihoods, and the traditional social norms and systems that bind us. Our island communities stand on the front line battling the impact of climate change, every day.

Fiji recognizes the urgency of the situation and has been actively pursuing adaptive practices, including the cultivation of climate-resilient crops like giant swamp taro and the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan to address the impacts of climate change.

emissions but also to support vulnerable communities and foster climate resilience.

Our nation continues to suffer from diseconomies of scale in production and exchange of goods and services, remoteness from export markets, high vulnerability to external market shocks and increasing susceptibility to natural disasters and climate change.

Furthermore, Fiji places great importance on collaborating more with the private sector, CSOs, development partners to advance the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities. We recognise that in times of crisis, the burden often falls disproportionately on women and people with disabilities. We are fortunate that our UN partners are focusing on their inclusion, aiming not only to protect their livelihoods but also to promote gender equality and social inclusion.

As correctly highlighted in the report, skills loss has become our biggest short-term challenge which is also a threat to economic growth. With Australia and New Zealand recently opening their immigration doors to unprecedented levels, we have lost 70-80,000

programmes complemented with coverage for climate and disaster shocks through the adaptive social protection framework.

In June 2023, the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls 2023-2028 was launched which canters on dismantling the culture of patriarchy and the pillars of gender inequality across all aspects of our society.

The review of our Defense, Immigration and National Security legislation has been given high priority by our leaders to enhance security of our people.

In our health sector, Fiji is committed to addressing the significant challenges posed by the burden of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, which impose a substantial burden on our population and the economy. Our health strategies and programmes will be directed to ensure effective delivery in revamping health programs relating to:

Child and Adolescent Health,
Immunization and Early Childhood Development,
Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV and AIDS,
Maternal Reproductive Health, and
Cancer Prevention.

Madam Chair, essentially data and information carry powerful and convincing justification to make real change in the lives of every Fijian. We need to bring data into evidence-based policy making and development planning. Good administrative records and vital statistics will produce data that can be analysed and used to formulate policies and track the success of development initiatives.

Fiji is committed to regional solidarity for peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity. In this regard, our National Development Plan is people centered and is aligned to the 2050 Blue Strategy for the Pacific as it calls the region to move beyond business as usual by strengthening inclusion and leave no one behind for inclusive participation, equal access to rights & justice and resources.

