



**PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States**

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**Statement by Hon Dr. Jiko Fatafehi Luveni
Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji
On behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States
For the High-Level Political Forum: General Debate
New York, 18 July 2016**

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Mr. President, Excellencies, colleagues, distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States with presence at the United Nations. We associate with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

The central, defining pledge of the 2030 Agenda is a simple promise, "To leave no one behind." This pledge defines our project for the next fifteen years to not only meet each and every sustainable development goal, but to do so in a way that reaches the most vulnerable, the most in need, and those for whom business as usual has been woefully inadequate.

Mr. President,

The special circumstances we face mean that a universal agenda must be tailored to different national circumstances. For implementation to be successful, efforts must be nationally led, and nationally owned. As SIDS recognized in the SAMOA Pathway, genuine and durable partnerships will be critical to these efforts. The Partnership Exchange, including the Partnership Dialogue dedicated to SIDS, is an important step in catalyzing this support.

The United Nations Development System is a valued partner in this endeavor. On-the-ground presence, including within the small States that populate our region, is critical to building the national institutional capacity to implement our sustainable development goals. But as SIDS, the nature of this support cannot be one size fits all. It must be tailored to our specific challenges and needs. In this regard, we look forward to implementing recommendations to reform United Nations System Support for SIDS.

Mr. President,

We welcome Samoa's upcoming National Voluntary Review and look forward to learning from their experiences, as a fellow Pacific Small Island Developing State.

Mr. President

The pledge to leave no one behind is particularly apt when it comes to the present and mounting adverse impacts of climate change. Climate change is a threat multiplier that continues to claim lives. As Pacific SIDS, we are especially vulnerable. Climate change poses existential threats to our people and land. It undermines all of our efforts towards sustainable development. Without immediate and ambitious climate action, we, and many, many others, will be left behind.

We welcome the adoption of the Paris Agreement, and further welcome the signatures and ratifications to the Agreement. But we wish to see a continuation of that momentum. Therefore we call for an early entry into force of the Paris Agreement, and for those Parties who have not yet ratified the Paris Agreement to do so as soon as possible.

Moreover, we are seriously concerned about the present levels of mitigation ambition, which are not yet adequate to stabilize global average temperatures at safe levels. We call for momentum towards elevated ambition.

And as we face mounting impacts, providing adequate financing for adaptation and resilience is more critical than ever. Funding must be unlocked. While we welcome decisions to disburse 2.5b by the end of this year, we call for scaled up support, and for further action towards simplified approval and application procedures for access, especially for the most vulnerable.

Mr. President,

As states defined by our large maritime areas, we are keenly aware of the importance of healthy, productive and resilient oceans to meeting all of the SDGs. Healthy oceans and seas help us eradicate poverty.

SDG-14 is an essential part of our integrated and indivisible agenda, and we welcome the upcoming UN Conference to support its implementation, to be held in Fiji next year. Oceans are a source of safe and nutritious food, they sequester carbon, provide renewable energy, are a source of tourism revenue, and contain important resources like those on the seabed. Their conservation and sustainable use is of paramount importance, and the burden of their conservation must not fall disproportionately on our small islands.

I thank you, Mr. President