



**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR
SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION
TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER, 2017
REPUBLIC OF FIJI – MS SEEMA CHAND**

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

Fiji thanks the panellists for their presentation and commends Tuvalu's discussions on building climate resilience to combat climate migration. Fiji also thanks the organisers for including a round table discussion on effects climate change on migration.

There is no denying that climate change is likely to become one of the single most important drivers of migration going forward. Whilst we welcome this recognition in the current Global Compact processes, "recognition" is simply not enough; this recognition must be followed by tangible action.

The key, as we see it, is to ensure that any that actions to prevent climate migration, through resilience frameworks, as well as those required to deal with climate migration when it occurs, must include a holistic human rights based approach. This approach must a core feature of the GCM's language specific to climate migration.

Climate change directly impacts on people's human rights, and when these rights are eroded people move. It will not be enough to simply include language on climate as a driver and separate language on human rights as important; instead the two should be expressly linked.

As such we see it is critical that the GCM recognises the need for Parties to fulfil the objectives of the Paris Agreement. It is also critical that that the unique rights priorities for climate migrants are also recognised as these often differ from those of economic or social migrants. Therefore the framework must recognise and reflect that climate change has a specific impact on the following key human rights and as such their protection should be addressed as a priority. These are:



- (a) the right to development, noting that there is nexus between development, climate resilience and climate migration;
- (b) gender equality and equity, noting that women and girls are at high risk of rights abuses during migration, and when left behind;
- (c) Education as a cross cutting issue, including education in relation to migration pathways including for those at risk of climate displacement;
- (d) the importance of the right to self-determination when undertaking relocation as a result of climate change and natural disasters;
- (e) the right to access to, and enjoyment of cultural heritage of communities identified as being at risk of climate displacement.

Thank Madam Chair.