REGIONAL STATEMENT
(to be delivered by CKI)

PACIFIC ISLANDS COUNTRIES

INTERVENTION ON ROUNTABLE 4

Partnerships and regional cooperation

Moderator,

I am delivering this intervention on behalf of the 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States covered under the UNFPA Pacific Sub Regional Office (PSRO) including, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Palau, Vanuatu, Tokelau and PNG.

We applaud and commend the rich contribution from the respective panelist and their constructive analysis on the theme of our roundtable. It’s a bonus to have them in our interactive discussion today.

Moderator,

Regional cooperation and partnership are fundamental in achieving inclusive social development including the 2030 Agenda, the 2013 Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration and the ICPD Program of Action. Pacific regional cooperation has proven to be successful in many areas, such as fisheries, trade, transport and ICT and it continues to help bridge the gap by strengthening the ability of our countries spread across the Blue Continent.

Pacific Leaders have recognized the necessity of close cooperation and coordination since 2014, when they adopted the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. They committed to working together to address Pacific common challenges, harness shared strengths, and ensure that our individual and collective advancement brings practical benefits to all Pacific people.
Pacific Regional cooperation was further strengthened in 2022 when Pacific Leaders adopted the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and now its implementation plan.

As the midterm review of the 2030 Agenda is fast approaching, the Pacific continues to stand together as one. We understand that there are significant benefits to sharing and combining our resources to leverage our voice, influence and competitiveness, and to overcome geographical and demographic disadvantages.

Majority of the challenges the Pacific face is transboundary therefore the Asia Pacific region must stand together in cooperation and in partnerships to address the shared population and development challenges the Asia Pacific region is facing. A wider regional cooperation can enhance the capacity of developing countries to meet emerging challenges, including the application of new technologies. The region can once again encourage south-south cooperation and the possibility of revisiting the triangular cooperation.

Moderator

The Pacific have been grappling with structural vulnerabilities such as persistent social and economic inequalities, forced displacement due to natural disasters and climate change, the impacts of climate change, and environmental fragility. The region lack the resources to scale-up health interventions and the fiscal space to implement support measures and minimize disruptions. The Pacific urgently need support from the international community, developed countries, international organizations, UN Agencies and donors to form genuine and durable partnerships to address the host of population and development challenges.

Noting that our Pacific leaders at the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting agreed to the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity which comprise current and new regional collective actions aimed at attracting new funding, investment, and partnerships that offer transformative benefits for Pacific communities. The Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity propose regional collective actions that will provide impactful early wins and effectively channel Forum development partners' efforts to towards regional priorities as determined by Forum members.
Without a doubt, meaningful and targeted Partnerships on specific areas and concepts of population and development will advance the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the full realization of the 2013 Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration. The Pacific stands ready to engage with all partners willing to come to the table, appreciating the potential of investment in our region and in our people.

I thank you for this opportunity and may we continue to have fruitful discussions for real positive impacts on our people.