1. **Acknowledgement**

At the outset, I wish to acknowledge the United Nations Development (UNFPA), for organizing this great opportunity for Fiji to share its realities and opportunities to deal with population and development issues.

2. **Why Sexual and Reproductive Health matter to all Fijians?**

The health and wellbeing of Fijian Women and girls is a commitment by the Fiji Government. The reality is that often women and girls are victims of the circumstances which often further discriminate an individual from realizing their full potential to her family and community. Thus, often trapped in a cycle of abuse, neglect and disempowerment.
The Fiji Government as per its commitment towards the instruments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1995, continues to champion community outreach programs to train, advocate, resource and expose women outside of their own communities so that they can realize that they can add even greater value through access to information and services as well as skills training or formal education.

3. **Achievements:**
   - An indicator of progress is that young people are now better informed on sexual and health reproduction and rights.
   - There are interventions in place to enable access to reproductive health and rights education and resource packages.

4. **Challenges:**
   - The rate of teenage pregnancy continues to increase
   - Cultural and religious perspectives continue to dominate households, often living women and girls vulnerable

Thank you.