Salutation
Honorable Ministers
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentleman

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 is an Indicator Monitoring Framework Important for Fiji?
Even though Fiji is less than a million by population size, the 884,887 persons are further categorized into their age cohort, gender, locality, socio-economic and political rights. The sensitivities which outlay these different levels warrant a clear and specific data and information framework that can inform policy and programmatic interventions for Fijians by Fijians. Essentially data and information carry powerful and convincing justifications to make real change in the lives of ordinary citizens such as men, women and children.
3. **Achievements:**
   - Government agencies have existing data and information specific to the implementation of services rendered.

4. **Challenges:**
   - While there may be existing data and information platforms, there has not been much emphasis to critique and review data and information management systems as well as indicators critical to population development and its agenda.
   - Data and information is not placed as a priority in most agencies, in fact it is seen as a burden, as much of the focus is on delivering the service.
   - Collaboration of relevant stakeholders on similar data sets are normally ad hoc and unstructured.

5. **Solution**
   - There needs to be a prioritized commitment for the Regional platforms to device clear specifications and a roadmap to assist in the review of current data and information indicators as well as the appropriate system to manage the platform.
   - Technical Expertise needs to have phased implementation from consultations, to project planning, project implementation and monitoring and evaluation as far as a refined and established data and information data system across service delivery areas as this becomes a backbone to development initiatives.

Thank you.