



**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
(UNESCAP)**

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COUNTRY STATEMENT

**“ROLE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ENERGY TRANSITION
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES IN ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC”**

- **Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Bula Vinaka and Warm Greetings to you all

At the outset, may I convey our sincere gratitude to UNESCAP for inviting us to participate in the 2nd Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, and make my country contribution on the **Role of regional cooperation for Energy Transition towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific**. May I also like to acknowledge our host country the Ministry of Energy in the Kingdom of Thailand

1. Fiji is an archipelago country with a land area of 18,000 sq km and a total population of 860,000. There are a total of 332 islands, of which 110 are inhabited. Fiji’s Energy Intensity is 895 KW per capita with hydro, petroleum and renewable energy as the dominant Energy Supply.

2. In the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, the Fijian Government has made a strong commitment in ensuring that all Fijians have access to sustainable electricity power. This is embedded in our Constitution and is further enhanced in a number of our guiding strategic national documents and policy frameworks which includes; The Green Growth Framework, the National Development Plan and the National Determined Contribution Implementation Roadmap to name a few.
3. One of the thematic areas in our Green Growth Framework focuses on energy security which highlights Fiji's need for a sustainable energy sector. Our National Development Plan provides a target for all Fiji citizens to have access to electricity supply by 2020 and a 100% renewable energy power generation (grid - connected) by 2030.
4. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, since our assuming the Presidency of COP23, Fiji has moved on with some regional initiatives.

a. **Launch of the NDC Regional Hub** - Our National Determined Contribution (NDC) - Energy Sector Implementation Roadmap (2018-2030) also provides the target to reduce our carbon emissions by 30% in 2030. Through the partnership arrangement with Germany, the United Kingdom and Australia a new regional hub to support the implementation of NDCs in the Pacific will be based in Suva. The Regional Pacific NDC Hub will provide expertise for developing regional solutions to mitigate global warming and enhance efforts by Pacific islands to adapt to climate change.

b. **Pacific Climate Finance and Insurance Incubator (the "Drua Incubator")**: The Fijian Government launched an important new initiative to develop finance and insurance products that are tailor-made to the needs and circumstances of vulnerable and low-income households in Fiji and other Pacific island countries. The Pacific Climate Finance and Insurance Incubator – known as the *Drua Incubator* – will bring together leaders in finance, investment and insurance to develop and “incubate” transformational and scalable financial and insurance products that meet the specific requirements of Pacific Small Island Development States. Together with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the

Government of Luxembourg will provide initial funding of 1 million euros for the initiative.

- C. Rural Electrification Fund**- Fiji is establishing the “Rural Electrification Fund” program working with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Sunergise, the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) network, and the Fiji Electricity Authority. The fund will provide the capital costs associated with bringing clean, renewable energy to off-grid rural communities in Fiji. By recycling the electricity fees paid by communities for renewable energy back into the construction of clean energy systems for additional communities, it is intended that this new vehicle structure can be self-sustaining and could be replicated across the Pacific and other vulnerable nations.
5. Fiji is expected to reduce 20% of the energy sector carbon dioxide emissions from the generation of electricity from 100% renewable energy sources. The remaining 10% will then be achieved through the implementation of energy efficiency measures. To achieve this target, the Fijian Government would need an investment of US\$2.97 Billion. The role of international and regional partnerships is very critical in this transition towards a sustainable and resilient energy sector for my country.
 6. In order to catapult our quest in achieving our ambitious target the Fijian Government has also become signatories to and entered into Partnership Agreements and Cooperation with other international organizations and countries. These arrangements are very important and it is expected to contribute towards Fiji achieving to meet its renewable energy target by 2030 including SDG 7.
 7. Furthermore, some Initiatives currently undertaken by Government to ensure that these goals are realized includes:
 - a. Review of National Energy Policy;
 - b. Review of Electricity Act (Completed);
 - c. Establishment of Data Repository (preliminary stages);
 - d. Review of Rural Electrification Policies;

- e. Establishing Energy Efficiency Policy (Initial);
 - f. Base Information for energy through the Census in September 2017.
8. In terms of energy connectivity, some of the areas Fiji and the region have made progress include:
- a. Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI)- The SEIAPI standards ensures that renewable energy technology implementation is of high quality;
 - b. Expansion of MEPSL programme in other Pacific island countries- Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga is progressing in implementing their own Minimum Energy Performance Standards Labelling energy efficiency programme.
9. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen in order to achieve our targets Fiji also has its fair share of challenges that could delay our achieving SDG 7 include:
- a. Increased Intensity of Natural Disasters: In 2016, Fiji was hit by a Category 5 cyclone, (TC Winston) the strongest Tropical Cyclone recorded in the southern hemisphere. Late last week we suffered another major flood in Fiji as an outcome of Cyclone , Category 1 cyclone
 - b. High reliance on fossil fuel imports: Fiji currently imports 100% of its fuel to supplement the increasing demand for energy.
 - c. Collection of accurate and reliable data: There is a need to improve in this area in terms of sectorial data. More detailed and comprehensive data is needed to inform policy makers in critical decisions.
10. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen in spite of these challenges Fiji is adamant to achieve our targets.
11. With those few words, I wish the forum a fruitful and insightful discussions and deliberations.

Vinaka Vakalevu.