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Statement by Fiji at the 4th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Let me begin by thanking ESCAP for again bringing together Member States to discuss how we as a region can move forward together to achieve the 2030 agenda which is increasingly being seen by the global community as an urgent step to save our planet. There is simply no other way to go.
2. We in the Pacific recognise that our survival depends on a united and integrated approach that leverages past commitments by the global community for which some are yet to be fulfilled; and also future commitments under various platforms. The future we want cannot be demonstrated by rising sea level which is already sinking some of our islands; extreme weather patterns that continue to affect our progress; limited access to resources that will disrupt our development; and a suppression of collective efforts that will amplify inequality. We call for enhanced regional cooperation through this intergovernmental platform to successfully address our plight.
3. We acknowledge with gratitude the assistance of our development partners in Asia-Pacific. Without it we would probably be left further behind. At the same time we recognise that a significant scaling up of assistance is necessary to deliver an agenda that is so transformative and which can only be seen as good intentions if the goals are not met. We call for a collective commitment to mobilise all available resources at the regional level that will leave no one behind.
4. Fiji supports a concerted and coherent effort that Member States have shown at this forum to address the indivisibility of the 2030 agenda. It is a tapestry of goals and requires a tapestry of actions so that we, and indeed the Pacific, are assured of our survival. Climate change, oceans, disaster risk reduction and energy connectivity are our pressing challenges. We call for the leveraging of the means of implementation to address these.
5. Fiji is implementing the 2030 Agenda within the broader context of our National Development Plan, our Green Growth Framework, the SAMOA Pathway and other relevant Pacific regional instruments. In this regard, we acknowledge the work of ESCAP's Pacific Sub-regional Office and other Pacific Regional Organisations who have been at the forefront of our collaboration efforts. Their support has complemented our efforts to successfully deliver our international obligations, foremost the COP23 Presidency and Co-Chair of the Ocean and Seas Conference.
6. We also call for a similar support through this most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the region to help us succeed.

7. Mr Chairman, we also acknowledge the work of Civil Society Organisations in the Pacific who are important stakeholders at this forum. Their contribution is vital to delivering the 2030 Agenda. We acknowledge that this needs a grand coalition where every partnership is essential. And they are integral to this.

I thank you Chair.