

COUNTRY STATEMENT - FIJI

**MINISTRY OF RURAL MARITIME DEVELOPMENT,
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES**

Disaster Ministers from the Asia Pacific Region

Delegates

Ladies and Gentleman

First and foremost, let me extend the Fijian Government sincere appreciation to UNISDR and the Government of Mongolia for co-hosting this very important conference. This is an important conference because we have all agreed that we are now experiencing an increase in the level of risk and impact of disasters, on our people and economies across our regions.

Therefore such conferences enables small island states like Fiji to learn from the experience of countries in the Asia Pacific Region and take home some of the key learning's from the discussions.

For the information of this Asian Ministerial Conference, Fiji has embraced the Sendai Framework and the recognition that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

In this regard, Fiji with the assistance of the Government of Japan and through JICA is in the process of finalizing its National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (NDRRP) 2018-2030. Fiji should be on track towards achieving **target E** of the Sendai Framework and contribute to number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by the year 2020.

The UNISDR Pacific Office representative in Fiji has a high regard for the Policy. UNISDR has taken the liberty to highlight Fiji's progress during regional meetings stating that Fiji is taking the lead with the development of a DRR policy in the Pacific Region. This is important because according to the world risk report of 2015 we are ranked 14th for the highest exposure and 15th for the highest risk worldwide.

The development National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy is a step in the right direction in terms of reducing our level of exposure,

vulnerability and risk. The plan provides a roadmap on the roles and responsibilities of the state, local governments, private sector and other key stakeholders with regards to supporting building resilience at the national level.

Ministers and Delegates, we look forward to working and collaborating with some of the member countries present here today in achieving some of our actionable commitments as set out in our National Policy. This collaboration is to ensure that we continue to work on building the resilience of the Fijian people moving into the future.

Vinaka Vakelevu