



Republic of Fiji

Chairman of Pacific Islands Forum

Australia  
Fiji  
Kiribati  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Marshall Islands  
Nauru  
New Zealand

## Pacific Islands Forum Group

Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Samoa  
Solomon Islands  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Vanuatu



Pacific Islands Forum

United Nations Member States

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. AMRAIYA NAIDU,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS GROUP  
DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA  
UNDER ITEM 5: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES & RELATED MATTER  
25 SEPTEMBER 2002, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. President,

The member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum represented at the UN in New York, Australia, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and my own country Fiji, thank UNDP for their efforts in preparing the country programme outlines for the Pacific Islands Countries and the comprehensive presentation by Mr. President being considered under Item 5 of the Executive Board's work.

In common with other small islands developing states, the developing countries in the Pacific Islands sub-region face challenges related to their small size, vulnerability to natural disasters and external shocks, distance from markets and capacity limitations. The development challenges of SIDS have been explicitly recognised in this year's two major international conferences on development in Monterrey and Johannesburg.

We therefore warmly welcome the ongoing involvement of UNDP, and of the other UN funds and programmes, in the Pacific Islands region. UNDP's key thematic areas, governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, information and communication technology, energy and environment, and HIV/AIDS are all of great importance to our region. We note that significant proportions of the Pacific Islands programmes are to be funded from non-core resources, and we therefore encourage donors to sustain and increase their commitment to UNDP's valuable activities in the Pacific, through both core and non-core contributions."

**And now I wish to add further short remarks in my national capacity.**

Fiji welcomes the move to enhance UNDP interaction with government counterparts, and in-country presence –a very important point for Pacific Island countries being isolated, small and highly vulnerable economically, environmentally, and socially. Last week s’meeting between the Prime Minister of Fiji and the UNDP Administrator in New York was initiated by my government on that basis. It also aimed to build up strategic partnerships that can utilize UNDP s’comparative advantage.

We welcome the results-based management approach which encourages the country Office to strengthen its resource mobilization strategies. With the reprofiling into UNDP multi-country programme in the Pacific, a concern arises with regards the meager regular resources allocation in particular, to the 10 Pacific island countries. We are confident that UNDP will adequately resource its Suva Country office to strengthen its resource mobilization capacity, and thus avoid the member countries facing disadvantages.

Mr. President,

The MDGs is a milestone roadmap for development, which my government has incorporated into its Strategic Development Plan for the 2003-2005 triennium. Mindful of the leadership role that UNDP is tasked with on this item, we are confident that UNDP can reassure our confidence in the MDG as a tool for empowerment of developing countries such as Fiji and the Pacific island countries under your programme. This vision can only be truly realized with an adequate level of resources, and with sustained programme commitment.

Finally Mr. President, We would encourage UNDP to work with the synergies that are growing between country and regional initiatives in poverty eradication and governance areas to consolidate the successful indicators that your review in 2001 have shown in those areas.

I thank you.