



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

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Amraiya Naidu  
Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations  
on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Group  
at the General Debate of the Second Committee  
30 September 2002, United Nations Headquarters**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

As Chairman of the Pacific Islands Forum Group, I am contributing to the general debate on behalf of our members who are represented at the United Nations, namely; Australia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Fiji.

Mr. Chairman, allow me at the outset, on behalf of the PIF Group, to congratulate you, your Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur, on your recent elections. We have every confidence in your leadership and counsel to lead the work of this committee to a successful conclusion at the end of this year. I convey the Group's full support and cooperation in the deliberations of the Committee during the 57<sup>th</sup> session.

Mr. Chairman, like in previous sessions, before us today is a work programme that consists of thematic issues that are critically important to the future sustainable development of all countries, in particular the developing countries in the categories of Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and Land-locked developing countries.

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Mr. Chairman, we are conducting our business today in this committee in the wake of the Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, both global initiatives that have overarching visions of engendering sustainable development for all.

The PIF Group once again reaffirms its position that the outcomes of these two conferences are excellent platforms that will provide the necessary impetus and commitments to drive sustainable development for all developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries on a long-term basis. They should also cause us to look carefully at the programme and methods of our work in the Second Committee, both this year and especially in future years, to ensure its relevance, effectiveness, coherence, and most importantly, its added value.

Mr. Chairman, in linking these recent global commitments with those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the work of this Committee is vitally important. The PIF Group therefore reiterates its support of the work of the committee and the thrust of major activities of the UN system and the specialized agencies that promote the attainment of agreed international development goals, the most recent being the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman, the PIF Group reiterates its support for the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), as the first expression of Rio, for the sustainable development of SIDS. The development challenges facing SIDS have been explicitly recognized by our Leaders in the outcome documents of WSSD. This includes the ten year review of the BPOA in 2004. We call upon Member States to advance the commitments into reality so that they are translated into tangible and meaningful results at the prescribed target date.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the PIF Group envisages that real progress can only come about with real commitments by all stakeholders. All countries face different sustainable development challenges. The Millennium Summit Declaration and the outcomes of Monterrey and Johannesburg give us hope that through international cooperation and support, sound policymaking and a clear sense of commitment, their goals will be achievable.

I thank you for your attention.