



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 FORUM GROUP
TO THE OPEN MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE FIRST YEAR OF WORK OF THE COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE
4 OCTOBER 2002, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr President,

It is my honour to address the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Pacific Islands Forum group of countries that maintain permanent missions in New York – namely: Australia, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Fiji.

Mr. President,

Since the last time a statement was made by Pacific Islands Forum group member states at the Security Council on the issue of terrorism, we have continued to work individually and collectively to combat terrorism in our region. Our resolve to continue doing so was embodied in the Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security, which our 16 Leaders issued in August this year. The Declaration which is being issued as A/57/331:

- Affirmed our common commitment to cooperation on law enforcement, backed by a strong legislative base, as a key element in addressing the threat of terrorism and trans-national crime;
- Stressed our region's commitment to global counter-terrorism efforts, including through the implementation of Resolution 1373 and the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF) Special Recommendations, including associated reporting requirements; and
- Underlined the importance of introducing legislation and developing national strategies to combat serious crime, including terrorist financing and terrorism, money laundering, drug trafficking, people smuggling and people trafficking.

Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations
Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum Group, 2002-2003
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Mr President,

The fight against terrorism cannot be won with statements of intent. It needs concrete and practical cooperation, and it needs the continuous enhancement of capacity to take action. In our region we have focused on both practical cooperation and on capacity building. The former takes place through a number of coordination and information sharing mechanisms, including in relation to police and law enforcement, immigration, and customs and weapons controls. These efforts are continuing to be refined and developed.

Capacity limitations present a major challenge to many of our members. Several are in dialogue with the CTC, and with Ambassador Ward in particular, but we are also looking at what more can be done regionally and bilaterally. Forum Leaders have endorsed the establishment of an expert working group to coordinate the development of a regional framework to address terrorism and transnational crime, and have asked that group to report to the Forum 2003 meeting and review regional implementation of Resolution 1373 and the FATF special recommendations. Leaders also recognised that further urgent action was needed on the part of some members. Officials are working on a strategy to address these subjects. They are looking at, among other things, vulnerability of banking and financial systems and transport infrastructure, particularly international airports. Forum Island countries with a capacity to assist others recognise their special responsibilities in this regard.

Mr President,

Much has been achieved over the past year in putting in place the legislative, regulatory and administrative framework for combating terrorism. The CTC, under the exemplary leadership of Ambassador Greenstock, can rightly take much credit for this. But there is no room for complacency – our efforts remain a work in progress. We in the Pacific recognise that there can be no standing still in the fight against terrorism. No region is truly pacific, when it comes to the threat of terrorism.

Mr President,

As we face the evolving challenge of terrorism, and as we work to implement the letter and spirit of Resolution 1373, the Security Council can be assured of the fullest support of the members of the Pacific Islands Forum group.

Thank you, Mr President.