



INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION A/C.6/71/L.8 IN 6TH COMMITTEE
'OBSERVER STATUS OF PIDF'

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER, UNHQ, NY, 14 OCTOBER 2014

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to join others in congratulating you Mr. Chairman, and members of your Bureau, on your election. The Fiji delegation pledges through you its full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, I have the honour to introduce document **A/C.6/71/L.8**, of **Agenda Item 172**, entitled, ***“Observer Status for the Pacific Islands Development Forum in the General Assembly”***.

In addition to the list of co-sponsors of this resolution, I wish to add the Kingdom of Tonga and Sir Lanka.

Mr. Chairman, the draft resolution before you on the Pacific Islands Development Forum contains the standard text used for previous observer status applications.

The call for a “Pacific Island Development Forum” (PIDF) was endorsed by Pacific Island Leaders at the 2012 “Engaging with the Pacific” meeting held in Fiji. The Official Communiqué recorded that the Leaders, “Endorsed the convening of the Pacific Islands Development Forum for the purpose of engaging leaders from key sectors in implementing green economic policies in Pacific Small Island Developing States.

The PIDF is the Pacific’s most inclusive and highest participatory South-South platform for action on the Green Economy and the logical link with the UN’s High Level Political Forum. It is a bold attempt to address the issues of sustainable development through a structured and inclusive approach. Given its whole of Society and multi-stakeholder format and its focus on a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through the green economy the PIDF will be the Pacific’s link to the HLPF processes envisaged under The Future We Want.

Mr. Chairman, the work of the PIDF is to:

Establishing the Pacific's first and truly representative and participatory platform on the Green Economy.

Empowering the People of the Pacific as primary stakeholders in their development through the green economy to initiate the process and make joint decisions about its outcome.

Giving value to voices never heard at this level of decision making in the Pacific.

Empowering the people of the Pacific to handle challenges and influence the direction of their own lives through the green economy.

By definition, PIDF is an intergovernmental organisation created by the Pacific Leaders and a Leaders organization created in the aftermath of Rio+20 to focus on green and blue economies, building island resilience to climate change, sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Mr. Chairman and members of the sixth committee, this application is indicative of the memberships renewed commitment towards the further utilization of this organization to implement and monitor sustainable development. This application has come at a critical juncture, as we look ahead to implement the outcomes of the 3rd International Conference on SIDS as well as the sustainable development of goals.

Mr. Chairman, the Pacific Islanders has for long experienced a great sense of disconnect between the work carried out in the United Nations and the work carried out in the region. This has major implications on our countries, whereby most if not all of our countries are left behind in the implementation of the MDG's. This application before you will help address the root cause of this problem. It will ensure our countries are not left behind once again for the upcoming SDG's by bridging the missing link critical for a more focused and integrated approach between the United Nations and in our region. We are relying on the wise and visionary decision of this committee to ensuring that the granting of observer status for the PIDF to see the full realization of true and meaningful sustainable development for all our entire people.

I thank you Mr. Chairman