

**Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**  
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**Statement by the Fiji Representative**

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Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Dear Colleagues,

Let me at the beginning congratulate you on your election at this significant meeting of UNFF 7.

Further, Fiji would like to show its sincere appreciation to the UNFF Bureau, and the UNFF Secretariat for their financial support and for successfully organizing this very important meeting. Also our sincere appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Bali Country Led Initiative of which its outcome we are very supportive of.

Confirming Fiji's commitment to the achievement of Agenda 21 of Chapter 11, and to the Johannesburg 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and also to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Fiji's see this meeting as crucial as it will set the stage for the realignment of our various activities and priorities from 2007 to 2015 in line with the implementation of the MYPOW that will be discussed in this meeting. It is therefore crucial that equal weighting is emphasized on the many issues covered within the MYPOW, as this will be a reflection on the equal importance of these issues to the overall achievement of the four Global Objectives on Forests along the general understanding under the non-legally binding instrument.

Mr Chair, Like other SIDS, Fiji's remoteness, and size is the key factor to the importance of Forests to our economic and social development. Realizing this, it is extremely important that Fiji continues to work with various organizations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, GTZ, FAO and many others to continue to foster sustainable development in the management and utilization of our forest resources. As such, ODA assistance for capacity building and transfer of technology will continue to play a vital role in the effective implementation of the MYPOW for the monitoring and successful achievement of the shared Global Objectives on Forests and to facilitate greater understanding in the region on the Non Legal Binding Instrument.

Mr Chair, Fiji would like to acknowledge the role of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in contributing to Fiji's capacity to meet international commitments and in facilitating collaboration and cooperation between Pacific countries to strengthen the regional position of the Pacific in the promotion of sustainable forest management and on international forest agendas, In this context Fiji would like to nominate the Secretariat of the Pacific Community as the regional focal point of the Pacific to the UNFF secretariat and also act as coordinator for the implementation of the MYPOW in the Pacific region and also to ensure successful implementation of the MYPOW and also the achievement of the shared global objectives in the Pacific Region.

And finally Mr. Chair, Fiji will continue to strongly support the work of UNFF including the various sessions such as the ad-hoc expert meetings and also the country led initiatives, and we look forward to contributing more in the next two weeks to the negotiations on the Non Legal Binding Instrument and the MYPOW for 2007 – 2015.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.