



**“Please check against
delivery”**

**Fiji Statement in First Committee Debate on
Other Disarmament Measures and International Security
71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly
24 October, 2016**

Mr Chairman,

Fiji aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM).

Mr Chairman,

Compliance is a vital element of international peace and security. Compliance with multilateral and international treaties, agreements and other obligations and commitments to prevent proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction and regulation and/or reduction of armaments is a central element of international security and a positive step towards complete disarmament.

The world would be a much safer place with the complete disarmament of all nuclear weapons and conventional weapons. It is a central reality that these weapons diminish the security of all countries. As stated by the UN Secretary-

General in his message at the Opening Plenary of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, “True national security can only be achieved outside and away from the shadow of the nuclear threat. This shadow must be removed for the sake of present and future generations.”

Mr. Chairman,

One of the ultimate objectives of the 2030 agenda is to improve the living conditions of all peoples of the earth. If we are to achieve this objective we have to seriously consider preventing conflict. Conflict has always brought with it immense human suffering and seriously deteriorated living conditions. Fiji believes that having complete disarmament and complying with all conventions, treaties and conferences on disarmament is a right step towards preventing conflict.

Mr. Chairman, the whole world is looking to us for decisive action to address the growing crisis of conflict and international security as it is of great value to the world we live in.

International security has taken a new twist in the 21st century. Threats are not only coming from States nowadays they are also coming from within States. These threat include AIDS, terrorism, poverty, criminal groups, economic mismanagement, corruption, transnational crimes, the Zika and Chlorea virus to name a few. In addition to these threats there are environmental challenges

like El Nino, rising sea level, effects of climate change and change of severe weather patterns. For Fiji and Small Island Developing States we are gravely concerned with the effects of these environmental threats. These threats are affecting the physical and economical survival of our societies. A single event of this environmental threat could wipe out our economy and set us back for decades.

In the same vein, we also share the same concerns surrounding security of information and telecommunications. These important resources should be used responsibly and in no way compromise international security. In our view there has to be more accountability in respect of the use of these resources.

Mr. Chairman

With an ambitious 2030 agenda, peace and sustainable development remain core to the achievement of the SDG's. Consideration and observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control, are therefore fundamental and cannot be overlooked in the implementation of the goals.

Mr Chairman,

Fiji stresses the need to involve women in all nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control negotiations. Women and children have been

the vulnerable victims of all conflicts and wars. In this connection Fiji encourages women to be at the forefront of all disarmament negotiations.

To conclude Mr Chairman, Fiji believes that achieving disarmament and maintaining international security requires the unity of Member States. International cooperation and support is of paramount importance in this context. We therefore need to work together to bring about a more secure world.

I thank you.