



"Please check against
delivery"

Fiji Statement in First Committee Debate on
Disarmament Machinery
71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly
26 October, 2016

Mr Chairman,

Fiji aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We would like to add some remarks in our national capacity.

Fiji recognizes the significance of nuclear proliferation education and its early introduction as vital to a changing mind set towards nuclear disarmament. If we are to achieve our pursuit for a nuclear weapon free world, education must be aimed at diverse segments of people and transcend common barriers such as age, gender or race. This is important in light of the current state of disarmament negotiations, which suffers from a lack of political will and genuine commitment by state parties. Fiji is convinced that with robust advocacy and awareness-raising on the impacts of nuclear weapons, the citizens

of the world would generate informed national opinion, compelling their governments to revisit state practices and policies favouring nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we would like to extend our appreciation to the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). That Office has been successfully implementing the United Nations disarmament fellowship, and training diplomats from around the world since its launch by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament in 1978.

Mr Chairman,

In the same vein, we would like to commend the three United Nations Regional Centres for peace and disarmament for the role they have played in awareness-raising, capacity building, advisory services in respect of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Fiji has benefited from a regional workshop held in Samoa by the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia-Pacific on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and practical exercises on the preparation of national reports to the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons, the Register of Conventional Arms and the Report on Military Expenditures. These practical exercises helped in building our capacities and established confidence-building measures and transparency. We would urge

the UNRCPD to continue with such substantive and tailored capacity-building programmes.

Mr Chairman,

Fiji reiterates its support for the UN disarmament machinery and recognizes the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the legitimate fora for disarmament negotiations. We therefore urge the international community to support the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, towards their complete elimination. The international community needs to show renewed commitment for pledges already made at the OEWG meeting in Geneva this year.

Fiji also underscores the need for adequate resourcing of the various disarmament bodies and institutions. Adequate resourcing is vital to the proper functioning of the overall UN disarmament machinery and tangible outcomes for the benefit of the international community.

In closing, Mr Chairman, we encourage the various bodies and institutions that constitute the UN disarmament machinery to continue the good work of advancing peace and security in the world.

I thank you.