

# **PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

## **United Nations Member States**



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### **Statement of the Pacific Small Island Development States (PSIDS) at the 52nd session of the International Commission on Population Development**

**Mr Chairman**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), namely Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, Palau, Vanuatu, and my own country Fiji.

We align our remarks with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

As this is the first time we are taking the floor, we wish to firstly extend to you our warm congratulations on your appointment. PSIDS is confident that with your leadership the 52nd session of ICPD will be a success. On the same vein, our best wishes to the members of the Bureau.

PSIDS expresses its appreciation on the relevance and the timeliness of this year's theme as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its Programme of Action, adopted in Cairo in 1994.

We join others in expressing our appreciation to the support and unanimous adoption of the Political Declaration on Monday. The Political Declaration is concise and action oriented and reaffirms the ICPD Programme of Action and its key actions as a whole.

This is particularly relevant for the Pacific, against a background of the world's smallest and least developed national economies, and some of the world's most vulnerable populations to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

**Mr. Chairman**

Implementation of the ICPD in the Pacific, has seen some good progress over the past years. Particularly, in the formulation of national policies aligned to the Forum Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration, Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016-2025); SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs. We also note progress in the availability and utilization of quality data to inform policy and programming including legislation,

policies and national action plans. Population data has also formed the foundation for many of our efforts to develop our Voluntary National Reviews on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, we recognize there are gaps and emergent issues that require our continued urgent attention and accelerated action.

In this regard, we will continue our efforts to strengthen clear linkages between population dynamics and climate change and disaster preparedness, food security and environmental management and sustainable development. In order to better answer the needs of those furthest left behind, young people from marginalized and vulnerable communities, people living with disability, rural population, we will also enhance the capacity for greater use of population data and demographic intelligence.

To achieve this, we will strengthen our collaborative approaches, and consistent monitoring and evaluation of existing population, health, youth, and policies aimed at empowering women. We acknowledge that the empowerment of women and adolescent girls and the improvement of their education, health, political, social, economic and health status is essential for any real progress in our sustainable development.

#### **Mr. Chairman**

The population of the Pacific region is young, with eight out of fourteen PICs having around 30% of their population below 15 years of age. On the pathway toward the realization of the ICPD Programme of Action and the SDGs, we need to consider the unique vulnerabilities of PSIDS and capitalize on the large youth population of the Pacific. As current and future leaders and as guardians of the vast blue Pacific, we must scale up our efforts to empower and engage young people, ensure their health and wholeness, as this has a major bearing on the wellbeing of the planet as a whole.

The Pacific is the home to some of the world's smallest and least developed national economies, the most densely populated urban settlements, the most limited of essential resources such as arable land and portable water, and the most vulnerable populations to the effects of natural disasters and climate change, which significantly contribute to population displacement and negatively affects the efforts to reduce poverty and inequality.

In our journey towards the world we want to see, we count on the leadership of the 1.8 billion young people in the world today, including the young people from the blue Pacific, who have the greatest stake in the future of our planet.

I Thank you.

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