



**Statement by Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Head of Fiji
Delegation at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, 13 – 16
July, 2015
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**President of the Conference,
Excellencies, and Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset, allow me to firstly congratulate the Government and the people of Ethiopia for hosting this Third International Conference on Financing for Development. I also wish to commend and acknowledge the warm hospitality shown by the people of Ethiopia to my delegation as we grace their beautiful country since our arrival.

Mr. President,

We align ourself with the Statement delievered by the Minister of Finance of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 & China.

Mr. President,

This Third Interantional Conference on Financing for Development is being convened at an important time as the global community is working towards adopting a transformative post-2015 development agenda in September. Therefore, the outcome of this Conference is very crucial as it will contribute

to the 'means of implementation' to achieve the goals and targets of the transformative agenda.

My delegation, therefore stresses the need to stay focussed on the cause of the transformative agenda through commitment, strong response and innovative approaches. It is imperative, therefore that what we agree in Addis is conducive and responsive to the needs and priorities of the developing world.

Mr. President,

Fiji, as a Small Island Developing State remains a special case for sustainable development because of its uniqueness and particular vulnerabilities including its small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base and exposure to environmental challenges like climate change.

The effects of climate change pose significant risk to small island developing states like Fiji and in our efforts towards sustainable development. In the last two decades, no fewer than 19 cyclones battered Fiji, and the total cost of these disasters was estimated at US\$630 million, an average of around US\$33 million per disaster. Climate-induced events like this call for investment in resilience. Fiji looks to the international community for a financing for development framework which tackles underlying vulnerabilities and incorporates risk to ensure development is sustainable.

We acknowledge the World Bank's small island state exception as a noteworthy reponse to the financing challenges of SIDS and appeal to the

international development community for similar gestures. Durable and genuine partnerships will advance sustainable development by harnessing the full potential of engagement between governments at all levels, businesses, civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders. In this regard, we reiterate the commitments of the SAMOA pathway to strengthen international cooperation and genuine and durable partnerships at national, regional and international levels.

Mr. President,

Domestic public resources remains key for financing national priorities and the unprecedented socio-economic rights enshrined in the Fijian Constitution. We recognise the importance of foreign direct investment and overseas development assistance in the social and economic development of Fiji and I take this opportunity to extend my Government's gratitude and appreciation to our partners who has been providing development assistance.

In relation to trade, my delegation calls for a universal and equitable trading system that is conducive, and not restrictive to the increasingly growing economies of developing countries. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that Fiji has a new Trade Policy Framework that will ensure a coordinated and a consistent approach of maximising the development gains, by enhancing our industries, investments, exports and trade.

Mr. President,

The proposed Sustainable Development Goals are more ambitious and bolder than the MDGs. Integration of the ambitious global development agenda into national plans, policies and programmes is critical for securing development finance and implementation. Fiji has made notable progress on this front with the recent launching of its Green Growth Framework that embodies the SDGs.

To conclude, Mr. President, my delegation extends its support to your stewardship in this conference and we welcome the outcome of this conference.

Thank you.