



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMBASSADOR PETER THOMSON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2014**

**Co-Facilitators,**

The Fiji delegation thanks you for convening this meeting and assures you of our full support in this preparatory process, building towards the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

**Co-Facilitators,**

We believe that for the successful implementation of financing for development activities, a much-improved data system will be essential. The theme of this morning's discussion, that of "data gaps", is a critical element given the manner in which our international institutions work.

In underlining the importance of data in development planning, we note that in many of the UN reports and documentation, statistical data from the Pacific Islands region is patchy, or often listed as missing. We therefore stress the importance of timely and appropriately disaggregated and verified data, for the designing of evidence-based programs and development planning; and we call for adequate resource allocation for developing country capacity on data. Cooperative action and collaboration between governments, relevant UN agencies and other stakeholders is required to ensure necessary capacity for

effective integration of disaggregated and verified data pertaining to our countries.

### **Co-Facilitators,**

We would like to comment on a few aspects in the direction of bridging data gaps.

Firstly, there is a need for well-moderated and transparent governance systems to be in place. A transparent and accountable governance system, free from corrupting practices, is one of the core requirements for effective development financing.

Secondly, there is a demonstrated need to push on with “public-private” partnerships. There is little doubt that collaboration between the private sector and our multilateral institutions will be an essential element in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It is common knowledge that the funding available for the development agenda in the private sector, be it philanthropic, corporate or pension funds, dwarfs that available in the public sector, particularly in the United Nations context.

It is also self-evident that a starving family cares little about whence the development assistance comes, as long as they receive it and survive. Therefore, since it is our job to see that they receive this assistance, the task of the United Nation’s is to give the imprimatur and efficiently channel all available funding, private and public, to the desired goals.

The third area we wish to mention is that of technology transfer. In transformative era in which we live, technology is the great enabler. For instance, we believe that technological advancements, coupled with innovative approaches on data collection can overcome the data anomalies we have highlighted. Technology also has a critical part to play in the great existential challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including climate change, food security and

human migration, The availability of financial resources for the timely transfer of technology to the developing world is central to this whole process.

**Co-Facilitators,**

In summary, as countries act with all due attention on the final phases of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and work diligently towards the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we would like to reiterate that robust planning and preparation are key to the achievement of our development goals. Secondly, to ensure a most effective approach to implementation, we recognise that partnerships with the wider world are crucial for the multinational institutions. For the historic tasks at hand, we have to garner financial resources from all credible sources. And finally, we must secure the necessary finance for transformational data systems, along with the technology transfer to developing countries that is required to achieve equitable global development.

I thank you Co-Facilitators.