



**Statement by Fiji's Permanent Representative, Dr Satyendra Prasad at
the UN Secretary-General's Peace Building Fund Replenishment
Conference
January 26, 2021**

Mr Chair, I join colleagues in thanking you for your excellent leadership of the Peace Building Commission (PBC). Fiji warmly welcomes the efforts to enhance stable and predictable financing for the Peace Building Fund (PBF).

Mr Chair, threats to international peace and security are becoming more varied- more multidimensional. Peace building and development needs to be better integrated, and the PBC provides an excellent platform for this.

Creating stable societies means responding to many inter-connected drivers of conflict; inequality, unemployment, poverty, and exclusion. All of these have become far more challenging because of the COVID-19 pandemic and infinitely more so, in small states.

Small states, like everyone else are going through a health crisis. The pandemic has overwhelmed not only their health systems, but its contingent economic and political stresses on stability and peace are growing.

Fiji appreciates the PBC's meeting on the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific in 2020. The PBF has been crucial for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Pacific by supporting political transition in the Solomon Islands, and supporting peace building in Papua New Guinea.

Beyond, these, the PBF can become a central instrument for bringing together resources, expertise for responding to multidimensional threats to peace and stability arising from the climate crisis. For Fiji and Pacific states, climate crisis chips away at social cohesion – this is persistent. This becomes more intense after each new climate catastrophe.

Recently, the PBF approved its first climate security and cross border project in the Pacific, to build capacity in dealing with climate security issues. This is a great initiative that needs to be expanded.

We urge the Peacebuilding Fund to continue to invest in the Pacific and place security and climate change at the heart of the peacebuilding agenda.

The severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our tourism dependent economies, have weakened our ability to respond effectively to persistent climate catastrophes; including to growing threats to food security and enhanced vulnerabilities faced by women.

Fiji welcomes the support by member states this morning to the UN Peacebuilding Fund. We join the Secretary-General and your call to all those

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who can to provide generous support to the PBC, and to position the PBC as a central platform for promoting development and maintaining peace and security in the most vulnerable countries and regions.

In recognition of how central the PBF is and our belief in how central it will become in addressing security threats arising from the climate crisis; Fiji looks forward to making its own modest contribution within this financial period.

I thank you.