



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States

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STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE CHAIR OF PSIDS

High Level Political Forum

July 6 – July 15

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS); the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu and my own country Fiji.

The PSIDS also aligns this statement with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 plus China and the Alliance of Small Island States

Last year when we met, the world was grappling with the global COVID-19 pandemic from vaccine production to affordable and equitable access. Today, we can safely conclude that a tripling of efforts is needed to combat this pandemic. This year's HLPF will focus on Sustainable Development Goals 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships in depth. These goals when interlinked and integrated should ideally see us out from this pandemic.

For PSIDS, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated barriers caused by the remoteness of our region and has hindered accessibility to resources. What does it take to recover from this pandemic and to ensure that we are on our way to meeting the goals we are discussing here today? Improving transport can improve connectivity which can reduce challenges faced due to geographical barriers. A fully engaged approach in intertwining local, regional, and international markets is essential in discovering best practices to deal with the economic blows caused by disruptions to essential supply chains to the region such as due to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change risks.

As a region, we are approaching the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to transition towards an inclusive blue economy and to harness the Oceans endless sustainability potential, such as through green & blue hydrogen energy, PSIDS support the restoration of a healthy and productive ocean that may further support the long-term economic development and livelihoods of Pacific Island Communities across the region.

The Pacific regions fisheries and their long-term sustainability and economic viability are especially relevant in maintaining Pacific economies and livelihoods as well as contributing to the global economy. However, these are threatened by exploitative practices, such as due to IUU fishing and marine pollution. Partners need to take responsible action by not placing our Oceans resources under threat from their wasteful dumping in the Oceans threatening the health and well-being of Pacific people and further derailing our efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in this decade.

The incorporation of a holistic approach to financing for development and to bridge gaps in accessing climate finance is essential so that PSIDS can build back from the COVID-19 pandemic and bolster sustainable economic growth that is more susceptible to shocks. Through a coalition of expertise collected among technical experts and through building upon our Pacific people's capacities, such as through local, cultural, and indigenous knowledge and wisdom, a more sustainable future can be secured.

It goes without mention that this pandemic is only beginning to be felt in Small Island Developing States whilst the world seems to have moved on! This pandemic has exposed a multilayered crisis within the Pacific region as food insecurity and unemployment have become major obstacles in working towards achieving the SDGs. Developing sustainable recovery capacities through a local and regional approach can help advance small island developing states solutions for small island developing states problems.

In closing, we welcome the important contributions made today and look forward to the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration as the outcome of this session.

I, Thank You