

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. RATU INOKE KUBUABOLA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF FIJI
AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

Your Excellency, the President of France, Mr Francois Hollande
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
Hon. Ministers
Director-General of the SPC
Members of the Diplomatic Corp
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As Chair of the SPC Conference, allow me first of all to welcome you all to this Roundtable Dialogue between France as a Metropolitan Member and ourselves as Pacific Small Island Members. Owing to other pressing national commitments, I regret that I am unable to be present in Noumea for this important dialogue.

I can assure you, Your Excellency, that Fiji supports the efforts of the Government of France in ensuring the success of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties to be hosted in Paris in 2015. This will be a watershed event and your government's efforts in lobbying for the capitalization of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a great example of your tremendous efforts. Without the means of implementation, which includes finances, SIDS, which are amongst the most vulnerable and poor, will not have the means to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

As we are aware, climate change could derail all our development efforts if actions are not taken NOW to stem the increase in greenhouse gas emissions and also prepare for some of the inevitable consequences. We look forward to France's leadership in ensuring a meaningful legally binding climate agreement that involves ALL countries, and that will ensure that the temperature rise is contained below 1.5 C. Such an agreement should be based on the universal principles of equity, fairness and common but differentiated responsibilities.

This is a timely Welcome Dialogue as the SPC strengthens its Change Agenda to ensuring a more vigorous monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of SPC programme results on not just development outcomes, but on actual impacts on Pacific lives.

As the global community takes stock of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and embraces the Sustainable Development Goals and Post 2015 development agenda, there needs to be a greater synergy in all partnerships for Development in ensuring alignment to these global development agendas, at both National and Regional levels.

The current visit by His Excellency, the President of France, to the SPC and this Dialogue with Pacific Leaders is a timely message to the global community that there is definitely room in the Pacific for everyone willing to build a more resilient Pacific people in the face of emerging global challenges.

I wish you all a fruitful and enjoyable discourse.

Ratu Inokr Kubuabola
Minister of Foreign Affairs
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