



Intervention on Agenda Item 3c: Safe and Inclusive Transport and Mobility

24 November 2022

Ms Faranise Kinivuwai – Director Transport

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on further regional, subregional and national efforts to significantly reduce road fatalities as well as to enhance social inclusion in the transport sector in the region. As the endorsement of a regional plan of action for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety is one of the indicators of achievement under the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), the Committee may wish to endorse the part of the Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety that is contained in document ESCAP/CTR/2022/5.

Mr Chair,

Excellencies and;

Distinguished Delegates

At the outset, Road safety is everyone's responsibility. The prevention of vehicle accidents and road fatalities is of utmost importance. Due to its membership in the UN, Fiji has automatically ratified the Global Plan for the Decade of Action to advance road safety and reduce traffic accidents and fatalities. Fiji's national initiatives and plans to lower traffic fatalities and accidents on Fijian roads are developed around thematic areas, Fiji's Land Transport Regulation is aligned to the goals and objectives of road safety and working towards a national approach that will lead to a reduction of road accidents.

Madam Chair

Fiji's Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport focuses mainly on Land and Maritime Transportation. Fiji has registered more than 140,000 vehicles of different classifications and 300,000 drivers of nine classes.

Madam Chair

In Fiji, statistics show that road accidents have dropped over the years. In 2017, 3,276 accidents were recorded. In 2021, this number decreased by 19.3 percent to 2,643 accidents. This was an on-average 4 percent reduction per year over the 5 years. Despite being slightly lower than the

target of 5% annually from 2011, Fiji achieved a reduction of 5% in 2012. The main causes of accidents in Fiji include speeding, drunk driving, careless driving, and by pedestrians at fault.

Madam Chair

2021 also recorded the lowest fatalities at 25 fatalities and the highest fatalities recorded in 2017 and 2018 of 70 fatalities.

Madam Chair

Despite the reducing numbers, the main causes of road accidents and fatalities are attributed to human error. Therefore, it is incumbent that road safety is everyone's responsibility.

Fiji has established an Accident Compensation Commission that ensures payment of compensation to any personal injury or death suffered by any person as a result of an accident in Fiji. This is no fault based scheme.

Madam Chair

Fiji's efforts towards reducing road fatalities include awareness raising and education of members of the public through various platforms. Drivers are cautioned, warned and issued with Traffic Infringement Notices to ensure safe driving habits and compliances. In ensuring safe infrastructure, Fiji is working on improving 30 black spots, 40km of route action plans in place (e.g. overtaking lanes); 30 village treatments completed; 60 mass action plans; 600km major roads marked and delineated; (and) Traffic Management Plans implemented on 4 major and 6 smaller routes.

In our effort towards social inclusion, Fiji provides subsidy to senior citizens through the form of bus fare assistance. We are also working on the Development of a transport system that will minimize barriers to make the transport system accessible to all people and provide customised infrastructure, services and support to facilitate access by people with unique needs.

Madam Chair

Fiji is working towards the 2021-2030 Fiji Decade of Action for Road Safety (FDARS) and seek the secretariats and regional organizations assistance with capacity building and financial modalities in strategizing and implementation of the FDARS.

On this note, we endorse part of the Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Thank you and Vinaka Vaka Levu