



**AGENDA ITEM 3: PROTECTING OUR PLANET THROUGH  
REGIONAL COOPERATION & SOLIDARITY IN ASIA & THE  
PACIFIC, 2017**

Madam Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to intervene and contribute to this item.

I applaud the Secretariat for the flagship report entitled “**Protecting our planet through regional cooperation & solidarity in Asia and the Pacific**”, **supporting its recommendations**, in particular identifying the critical environmental drivers on our planet and our society and human well-being.

I wish to focus this intervention on climate change and oceans.

Climate change remains our most existential threats giving rise to sea level rise, loss of biodiversity, extreme weather events and outbreaks of uncountable diseases.

As global carbon emissions are on the rise again, with our region collectively responsible for 55% of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and more so, with a trend of continuous growth between 2010-2022,

for us as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), this is a worrying trend because at this current trajectory, low lying nations in the Pacific are likely to become uninhabitable under current emissions scenarios by 2050. The report states that current ambitions, as set out in the collective NDCs, fall short of what is required to reach the Paris Agreement targets.

Pertaining to oceans, more must be done to address the rapid decline of our ocean's health and marine ecosystems.

We need to ensure that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) concretely define ocean adaptation and mitigation commitments. It is unfortunate that only 20 percent of current NDC's have a 'blue' component and while we continue to talk about nature-based solutions, most national commitments do not reflect actions to support oceans in their climate goals.

We must strengthen our commitment towards the Ocean Pathway Partnership to support the dedicated mandate created within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to address climate-ocean issues.

Fiji calls for **bold leaderships** of the region and by the region to advocate for reductions in current global emission by 50% by 2030 in order for 1.5 degrees to remain a realistic target, and moreover to enhance the resilience of our planet and society.

In this connection, Fiji has enacted its Climate Change Act in September 2021. It is perhaps the single most comprehensive climate law developed by any Small Island Developing State covering issues such as long term

net-zero commitments, carbon budgets, carbon market establishment, climate-induced human mobility, nature-based solutions, legal recognition of maritime boundaries relative to sea level rise, climate finance and intergovernmental resilience building.

In fact, Fiji is only the seventh country in the world to pass climate legislation that includes net-zero emissions goal. Despite contributing only 0.006% to global GHG emissions, we are walking the talk and demonstrating remarkable climate actions - this is what we expect from our Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the World.

Finally, Chair, we are counting on our region to walk the talk- to support our call- through strengthened multilateralism- for strong advocacy and support towards the measures identified in the Report that are necessary to address the existential threats we are facing.

In so doing, we are strengthening our common resolve to build resilience of our societies and planet before it is too late because charity begins at home.

Thank You.