

Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

COUNTRY STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND MINERAL RESOURCES HON. FILIMONI VOSAROGO

On the Theme

"Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution".

> Held on 29 February and 1 March 2024. At the

Conference Room 2 at the United Nations complex in Gigiri, Nairobi Kenya Time Limit: 3 Minute

Salutation:

Her Excellency, the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Ms. Leila Benali. Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

National Statement:

 It is my honor to deliver the National Statement for Fiji that encapsulate our vision and commitment towards the desired outcome of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

- I acknowledge the tremendous effort by the UNEP Secretariat, the host country Kenya; and the determination of all Members States present today.
- His Excellency, the globe is reeling under the self-inflicted, triple planetary crisis that has bearings on the very core of our existence and Fiji is no exception.
- We must ENSURE that as one global family, we adopt best practices to conserve, protect, manage and restore nature, while gradually meeting the fundamental rights of mankind to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- Fiji reaffirms its commitment to uphold the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; and our continued commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the United Nations Environment Assembly, contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in an integrated and holistic manner.
- Your Excellency, Fiji is COMMITTED to END plastic pollution, halt biodiversity loss; and build resilience to climate change.
- Fiji strongly believes that through our collective collaboration and partnership towards the effective and inclusive implementation of

global instrument and agreement; we can strengthen efforts in addressing threats posed by global challenges including of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and their impacts on human health and the environment.

- In Fiji, we are working diligently to protect, sustainably manage and restore our fragile ecosystems. As a small island nation, we are incorporating Nature Based Solutions to our planning and designs to address societal challenges due to climate change and disaster related risks, simultaneously providing security, human well-being and biodiversity benefits.
- The impacts of the change in climate are cross cutting and encompassing on the lives of our people. Fiji's unique climatic characteristics, its vulnerability to natural climate variability and extreme weather events, and the disproportionate effects of global climate change trends on the nation.
- Fiji's commitment to address the triple planetary crisis is further bolstered by national policies that focus on specific sectors vulnerable to climate impacts, such as agriculture, water resources, and coastal management. These policies not only address immediate climate-related challenges but also align with long-term sustainability goals.

- Your Excellency, fellow Ministers It is my sincerest hope that discussions in UNEA-6 will unwrap solutions to some of the gravest environmental challenges the globe is facing today. A once in a lifetime opportunity is at hand to identify and grab a collective and game-changing solution that will result in a 'nature-positive world' snatching the world from the jaws of irreversible biological disaster.
- Fiji wishes all participants at the United Nations Environment Assembly the very best for a meaningful week.
- Thank you, Madam President