



Fiji National Statement

Second World Summit for Social development:

“World Social Summit” under the title “World Summit for Social development”

Roundtable 1:

Topic: Strengthening the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion

4th November 2025

(3:00pm – 6:00pm)

Doha, Qatar

(Speaking Time: 3 minutes)

(Note: Parallel With the Afternoon Plenary Meeting)

Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. Fiji reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing the **three foundational pillars of social development** — (i.) the eradication of poverty, (ii.) the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, and (iii.) the enhancement of social inclusion.

2. As a Small Island Developing State, Fiji's development experience is shaped by structural constraints such as limited economies of scale, distance from major markets, and acute exposure to environmental and economic shocks. We extend our deepest condolences to the people of Jamaica for the devastation recently experienced — challenges that resonate deeply with Fiji, having faced similar adversities in our own history.
3. Yet, despite these challenges, Fiji's resilience defines our story. We believe that **multilateralism is essential** to sustain this resilience and to **ensure that no country is left behind** in the pursuit of social progress.
4. Mr. Chair, allow me to highlight two key points:
 - i. **First**, the three pillars of social development are **interdependent and mutually reinforcing**. Poverty eradication requires not only **consistent income generation**, but also **equitable access** to quality education, healthcare, and social protection. Promoting decent and productive employment demands **sustained investment** in lifelong skills development, fair wages, and safe working environments where labour rights are respected. Advancing social inclusion means **removing systemic barriers**, empowering marginalized groups, and ensuring that every voice — regardless of gender, age, or ability — is heard and valued.

Above all, we cannot achieve social justice and social development without peace, security, human rights, and fundamental freedoms.

- ii. **Second**, in Fiji's national context, these are not abstract commitments but active priorities. The **Doha Political Declaration** provides a **critical global framework** that complements our National Development Plan 2025–2029, as well as regional efforts under the Pacific Small Island Developing States framework.

- 5. We are **strengthening whole-of-government coordination and partnering** closely with civil society to tackle the multidimensional roots of poverty, especially across rural and maritime communities. Fiji is investing in youth empowerment, technical and vocational training, micro-enterprise development, and inclusive growth opportunities within the blue and green economies, digital transformation, and sustainable tourism sectors.
- 6. We are also committed to **eliminating discrimination in all its forms**, empowering every person, and ensuring equal access to opportunities and resources.

7. Mr. Chair, as we look ahead, Fiji believes that the path to genuine social progress lies in **integrated, people-centred policies, strengthened multilateral cooperation, and enduring partnerships** among Governments, development partners, civil society, and communities.
8. Together, we can build societies where every individual lives with dignity, participates meaningfully, and thrives in a just and inclusive world.

Thank you.

End

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