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**Remarks by H.E. Peter Thomson
Singapore Reception: 50th Anniversary of Membership of the United Nations**

Your Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Your Excellency Ambassador Burhanudeen Gafoor,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening.

I am very happy to join members and friends of the Forum of Small States (FOSS), in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Singapore's membership to the United Nations.

Since joining the UN, Singapore has made an enormous contribution to the organization.

It has been a consistent exponent of the multilateralism system; of the importance of collective action in addressing common challenges; of upholding international law; of pursuing peaceful options in settling disputes; of ensuring that the interests of small states are considered in global affairs; and of helping to shape the UN, so that it remains fit for purpose.

It has made an enormous contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, contributing to peacekeeping missions across the world.

And – most importantly to me – Singapore has made a vital contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – particularly in the areas of sustainable cities, and water and sanitation.

Since becoming Fiji's Ambassador to the United Nations in 2010, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the professionalism, and unparalleled focus of Singaporean diplomats to finding solutions to bridge divergent views.

In fact, I have made it a practice when offering advice to junior diplomats that they carefully observe how Singaporean diplomats apply themselves to problem-solving and delivering outcomes.

Singaporean diplomats are masters of the diplomatic trade, and a true reflection of the Government's motto: Integrity, Service, Excellence.

So once again, I congratulate Singapore on the 50th Anniversary of its membership of the UN.

You are a proud example of the important contribution that small states can make to world affairs, and to bettering our shared future.

Thank you.