

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Amraiva Naidu**  
**(Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Fiji to the United Nations)**  
**Head of Delegation of the Government of Fiji**  
**to the International Conference on Financing for Development**  
**Monterrey City, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates.

Fiji is proud to be participating in this important event at the International Conference on Financing for Development. My Government thanks the Government and the people of Mexico for their warm hospitality and excellent organizations and facilities in hosting this landmark event.

Mr. Chairman, the issues before us this week are critical for future global sustainable development. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like my own country, Fiji and other developing countries, hold great hopes for the meetings outcomes. The draft declaration provides an excellent platform to advance the challenges of addressing sustainable financing issues for development. Therefore the Monterrey Conference will be the launching pad for mobilising global awareness and commitments by all stakeholders, and to engender successful and tangible development results.

Fiji recognises the need to align any agreed financial framework from this conference with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations, and with the implementation projections that will emerge from the World Summit on Sustainable Development. We are optimistic that these global initiatives will build on each other's strengths rather than to undermine their common and overarching vision of sustainable development.

As a SIDS economy, Fiji's participation in the world economy is beset with numerous challenges. We suffer specific handicaps arising from the interplay of factors such as smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersions, environmental and economic vulnerabilities such as natural disasters and a limited internal market in addition to the general problems faced by the developing countries.

Today, the twin-forces of globalisation and trade liberalisation have quickened global developments to an alarming pace, and widen the gaps between the haves and have-nots.

Being small and vulnerable, Fiji has had to sacrifice and struggle to survive. To that end, our collective commitments this week must be progressive and visionary to advance the real concerns and threats to our survival. The current trend can render developing countries, including mine on a continuing downward spiral in the immediate future unless substantive financial and monetary measures are put in place by the global financial institutions. At the same time all stake holders need to mobilize necessary efforts for increased financial resources towards achieving sustainable development in the world.

It is imperative, therefore that the Monterrey Conference is concluded successfully. To that end, our collective commitments this week must be progressive and visionary to advance the real concerns and threats to our survival. We envisage real progress as achievable in all economies if the relevant processes are participatory, fully gendered and holistic. Then only can we hope to inclusively share the benefits of globalisation, which are to be distributed equitably amongst all societies and peoples of this world.

Mr. Chairman, making sustainable financing available is a key element in the eradication of poverty, through long-term sustained economic growth and the promotion of sustainable development in all developing countries. The commitments by the development partners to increasingly mobilise financial resources are crucial. The World Bank estimate of an annual injection of US\$40-\$60 billion into the system is conservative yet courageous. We need more actions if we are serious about meeting the development targets of halving extreme poverty by 2015.

Mr. Chairman, Fiji believes that actions start at home. It is the responsibility of individual countries to formulate appropriate and effective policies and development strategies that are conducive to sustainable long-term developments. Countries must be in charge of their own developments and policies must be locally owned and home grown. This is indeed the underpinning premise of the MDGs.

Limited resource base and constrained capacities for development vis-à-vis the international financial structures and trading systems and rules present problems for Fiji nationally, for our region, and for the international community. We need the support of the development partners through the mechanisms identified in the outcome document. We need an increase in FDI to our region, predictable market access and transparent trading rules, and raising ODA to internationally agreed levels. In order for developing countries to cease dependency on ODA and frame durable financial structures, capital outlay is essential to develop enabling international, regional and national economic and political environment, and broaden and build their economic base and capacities. That we see as the purpose of this Monterrey conference. It is therefore imperative to implement the MDGs.

With this thinking we offer for recognition and consideration at this conference several critical issues. First, the scarcity of domestic financial resources is a constraint on socio-economic progress and impedes our goals of attaining sustainable development. For SIDS these are due to a combination of factors ranging from economics, geographical, and environmental, which we inherited not by design but from nature and are thus beyond our control.

Second, a strong, dedicated and genuine international commitments is in order from the developed world to create new opportunities for developing countries. It is vital that developing countries are assisted with such opportunities to enable us earn higher incomes to deal with the perennial problems we face today such as poverty, HIV/AIDS and so on.

A third priority area for action is to set up collaborative mechanisms to build and support capacities of the developing countries, in particular the small and vulnerable, to participate in international fora, articulate their plights or successes and there make decisions that affect them and their future.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, if we want to make our world a better place to live in, we should all resolve to begin here at Monterrey with a firm commitment to direct financing resources where they are needed most. Only then can we meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable and give hope and dignity to their lives.

I thank you for your attention.

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