FIJI STATEMENT

BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION

STATE PARTIES 2019

Agenda: Item 8: Progress with the Universalisation of the Convention

PALAIS DE NATIONS, GENEVA

Thank you Mister President

Fiji being the hub of the region has a key role in the region’s universalisation efforts. We have worked tirelessly with the ISU and in its implementation efforts as reflected in its report on universalisation activities.

Being also home to regional and international institutions whose mandate is to cover the region, we do not only have a role but a duty in this universalisation efforts.

Mister President, let me first acknowledge and commend the contributions of the EU, Australia, France and the UK for its subsequent strategic programmes such as workshops this year including the appraising of our parliamentarians on the intricacies of the BWC in Wellington in September this year.

In this effort Mr President, we are also mindful of the fact that there are varying priorities in our small island communities’ key of which is the continued threat of climate change and the rising sea level which has a serious concern for us. Nevertheless, with the strategic, transparent and inclusive consultation process spearheaded by the ISU and with the continued support from our partners, we are optimistic that our vision for the coming year for the full universalisation of the Pacific is almost within our grasp.

We must maintain the momentum with targeted and specific approaches coupled with continuous follow ups through the appropriate forums to achieve this universalisation efforts not only for the Pacific but in all other regions.
Mister President, at the national level my delegation wishes to underscore and acknowledge the concerted efforts of the EU and the BWC ISU for advancing Fiji’s machinery in terms of biosafety and biosecurity who are key in the implementation of the elements of the Convention for a safe and secure Fiji. With EU’s announcement of support of Fiji’s national action plan for 2020, this will enhance our biosecurity and biosafety machinery into a robust responsive mechanism that not only could respond nationally but could be in a position to cover the region.

Finally Mister President, Fiji stands ready to continue to work with you and the ISU including our partners to advance the universalisation efforts for the Pacific.

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