

Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid  
International Plan of Action on Ageing  
Bangkok, 12-14 September 2017

Name of speaker: (Mr.) (Ms.) Dilitiana Baleinabuli

Country/Organization: Fiji / Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty  
Attenuation

Please indicate the agenda item on which you wish to speak:

Agenda Item No: 3

If you have a prepared statement, the Secretariat would find it most useful if you could kindly provide us with a copy, preferably in electronic format or hardcopy (typed or handwritten), for use by those listed below:

- Interpretation
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FIJI COUNTRY STATEMENT

- Acknowledge the opportunity extended to the Republic of Fiji to be represented at this forum to Review the Implementation of the international instrument on Ageing.
- Fiji is a country less than a million people but over the last seven to eight years the Government of the Republic of Fiji has made significant strides in providing a national framework as well as a mandated interagency mechanism (National Council of Older Persons) to support the awareness and the collaboration which will over time witness more elderly friendly policies and implementation at the different sectors.
- Since our National Framework was devised 7 years ago, a lot of the focus is reviewing approaches to include aspects that were previously excluded through both targeted consultation approaches that includes older persons themselves.
- I can confirm at this forum that most of the activities under awareness and consultations are core to the implementation by the Government for this financial year. An important event that we are quite excited about is a senior citizens week which will be launched later next week to create more awareness as a build up to the International Day of Older Persons on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.
- Fiji has particularly made great progress on the social protection of older persons. This is where Government provides superannuation to vulnerable older persons from the age of 65 years of age. For the interest of the forum this program is known as the Social Pension Scheme (particularly targeted at those who have not been part of any superannuation scheme throughout their lives.
- Today the scheme currently assists 26,332 older persons. The monthly allowance allows an older persons to access FJD \$100 (equivalent to US \$50). It progressed from \$30 in 2013 to \$100 in 2017.
- Government through the National Council of Older Persons (NCOP) also recognises the complementary efforts by existing agencies whether it be private or community based to add value to the service frontier for older persons.
- It is the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Fiji to create greater awareness to sensitize stakeholders on Ageing and its implications as well as opportunities to work collaboratively to ensure the best interest of older persons through improved service delivery for the aged in Fiji.