



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT

Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons National Statement

General Exchange of Views

**To be delivered by H.E Ambassador Filipo Tarakinikini
Time: 5 MINUTES**

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, UNHQ, NY

Monday 3 March 2025

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, Fiji would like to join others in congratulating you, Your Excellency, Ambassador Rakhmetullin, and to the Government of Kazakhstan, for your appointment and leadership as President of the 3rd meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Congratulations are also extended to the three members of your Bureau and the Secretariat for the support in this 3rd MSP.

Fiji's appreciation also goes to the Co-chairs of the Informal Working Groups, and facilitators.

Mr. President,

On this occasion, Fiji reaffirms its commitment to the shared goal of international peace and security and the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

In these challenging times, it is highly encouraging to note that this commitment is being shared by others, and we warmly welcome the four new signatories, and ratifications, with special recognition to Indonesia and the Solomon Islands from the Asia-Pacific region. We urge States that have not yet done so to sign, or accede to the Treaty without delay.

Yesterday, we are encouraged by the commitment of the Republic of Marshall Islands in acceding to the Rarotonga Treaty or the South Pacific Test Ban Treaty.

We continue to express concern at the persistent threats to use or test of nuclear weapons, together with escalating and forceful nuclear rhetoric.

In September last year, the Pacific witnessed a long-range missile landing on its waters, a clear violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Pacific's Rarotonga treaty. Fiji strongly condemns all forms of nuclear testing, threats, explicit or implied, in all circumstances.

Mr. President,

The work stream on Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation is of particular importance for Fiji. More than any other aspect of the Treaty, it is the work on this issue that best captures the humanitarian impetus at the center of the TPNW. We acknowledge and thank Kazakhstan and Kiribati for their leadership and efforts on Article 7, in particular the establishment of the International Trust Fund which is clearly voluntary and does not incur any program budget implication.

We hail from a region that continues to live with the legacy of nuclear weapons testing, and Fiji remains committed to addressing nuclear legacy issues.

For members who may be dragging their feet on Article 7, let me remind you that the Pacific alone endured more than 300 nuclear tests on land, air, sea and below the seabed that unleashed the equivalence of more than 14,000 bombs dropped on Hiroshima.

Mr. President,

The legacy of nuclear weapons testing has left the Pacific most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea level rise, and natural hazards, all of which are negatively impacting former test sites.

The integrity of structures which store or contain nuclear materials is of growing concern especially for our small island states that rely on land and the ocean to sustain our daily livelihood.

We applaud the work of the Scientific Advisory Group, its' report in this MSP has clearly identified gaps, of data and the need for additional scientific assessments on the environment and the people. The report on the modernization of nuclear weapons is of particular concern.

Moreover, the report complements the UN General Assembly resolution adopted in 2024 on Nuclear War effects and Scientific Research which Fiji proudly co-sponsored, as led by Ireland and New Zealand.

Fiji hopes that further progress and implementation of the Treaty through the 14 Actions under the Vienna Action Plan, will become an inspiration for the rest of the international community to take action.

As TPNW States, we are equally committed to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation (NPT). Fiji continues to fully implement its obligations under the NPT and subscribed to the comprehensive safeguards agreements of the IAEA including officially adopting the modified small quantities protocol last year.

With this, my delegation welcomes the participation of the IAEA and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) at this meeting and we are also recognize and thank civil societies, academia, youths and NGOs efforts on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

We in the Pacific, know the value of peace as we had lived through the horrors of its absence. Our ocean and its diverse and vibrant lands have been a theatre of the two World Wars, and a testing ground for the most dangerous weapons – the impacts of which are still felt today.

With this, the Leaders of the Pacific Region agreed to establish the Blue Pacific Region as an Ocean of Peace, as our contribution to world order, given the additional geopolitical turmoil brewing and surrounding the Indo-Pacific region.

Through the Ocean of Peace, we recognise the right of the people to peace and reaffirm our strong resolve to maintain peace and security, knowing well that the ultimate goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons is both a challenge and a moral and humanitarian imperative.

Thank you

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