



rights. Fiji's commitment to this global consensus as well as its subsequent reviews is evident in our evolving policies and programmes – where much progress has been recorded in the last two decades. Mr. President, although Fiji is faring well with the implementation of the programme of action, there remains much to be done.

Mr. President, Fiji is a small island developing state with over 300 islands and a population that is at once highly concentrated in urban and peri-urban areas, while also being dispersed around remote outer-lying islands. Addressing all these core ICPD issues is made all the more challenging for Fiji by the additional layer of existential challenges caused by vulnerabilities to climate change, frequent natural disasters and environmental degradation.

Mr. President, the juxtaposition of such stark situations in a small island developing state brings with it unique challenges for policy formulation and implementation of 21st century sustainable development solutions

progressive realization of every person's right to health care services, including reproductive health care. Fiji's Ministry for Social Welfare, in partnership with and through the funding support of UNFPA, has a sexual reproductive health programme working directly with rural women and young people. The programme is exercised through the 60 women's resource centres the Government has built around the country in rural and maritime areas. From January to July of this year, 30 rural women's groups and youth groups have been trained to be peer

Mr. President, the Government of Fiji also recognizes the importance of addressing inequalities and the empowerment of women and girls in equitable and sustainable development. On the eve of International

Mr. President, this is an opportune time to underline the importance of data in development planning. My delegation has noted in UN reports and documentation that statistical data from our Pacific Islands region is patchy or often listed as missing. We would like to stress the importance

Mr President, it is imperative that national efforts be dedicated towards bridging gaps in implementation, advancing the ICPD agendas and ensuring that these issues are secured in the Post-2015 Development agenda. They must remain at the forefront for governments and the lead UN agencies if we are to maintain a sustainable planet for the generations to come.

I thank you Mr. President