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FIJI MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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New York, NY 10017

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**Commission on the Status of Women**

**Fifty-second Session**

**“Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and  
Peace for the Twenty-first century”**

**Statement by Dr. Lepani Waqatakirewa  
Permanent Secretary  
Health, Women and Social Welfare**

**New York  
28 February 2008**

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor

The delegation of the Fiji Islands is thankful for this opportunity to address this august forum of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on Women.

At the outset, my delegation aligns itself to the statement delivered by the honorable delegate of Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Island Forum Group yesterday afternoon.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action calls on Governments, funding

agencies and development partners to mobilize resources for the financing and implementation of the Platform for Action

Other international conferences have also addressed the challenges faced by Governments and Institutions in the implementation of policies that addresses gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Mr. Chairman,

In Fiji, the government machinery for Women has recently been merged with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and we believe this merger will bring about the much needed integration of gender equality perspectives in all spheres of health, development and management.

It also means that the Department of Women will have more access to additional resources and the wider network of health and related infrastructure and processes

Mr. Chairman,

Gender policies are in place and Fiji like many other developing countries has found it a great challenge to implement the agenda for gender equality and the empowerment of women for various reasons.

However, I would like to highlight some activities already implemented in this area;

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change is a real threat to our nation's security and economic well-being.

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