GOVERNMENT OF FIJI

REMARKS BY HON SAKIASI DITOKA
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UNFCCC 31 – FIJI NATIONAL STATEMENT

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2026

PLENARY ANADOLU

(Time Allowed: 3 Minutes)

Mr. Murat Kurum, President of COP31,

Mr. Chris Bowen, President of the Negotiations,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Ni sa bula vinaka.

I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of Fiji.

For Fiji and the Pacific, climate change **threatens** our people, our development, and our very existence.

First, rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and the impacts of a strong El Niño are placing significant pressure on water security, food production, and livelihoods across Fiji and our blue Pacific.

Simultaneously, we face the reality of an overshoot of the 1.5°C threshold.

Let us be clear: **1.5°C is not a negotiating position**.

We should avoid the overshoot through ambitious action including **progress on the transition away from fossil fuels**; **deep methane reductions**, and **adherence to the best available science**. The IPCC must remain the sole credible science. Fiji also recognizes the leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as stewards of nature and partners in effective climate action.

Second, this is no longer only a scientific imperative. It is also a **legal obligation**. The ICJ Advisory Opinion affirmed that limiting warming to 1.5°C is the primary temperature goal, and the UN General Assembly has called for accelerated climate action in response. COP31 must now deliver outcomes consistent with that responsibility.

Third, every fraction of a degree of overshoot increases adaptation needs and amplifies loss and damage. **There can be no effective adaptation without climate finance**.

Fiji reaffirms the NCQG as the principal multilateral framework for mobilizing and providing international climate finance and the climate finance gap must be addressed.

Fiji calls for support for the Pacific Resilience Facility to deliver resilience finance directly to vulnerable communities.

Fourth, we must place the **ocean at the centre of climate action**. We must also advance climate justice and uphold the dignity, rights, and sovereignty of our peoples. Here in Antalya, we must move beyond recognition of threats and advance a clear pathway for ocean-based climate action and accountability.

Mr. President,

Last month, Fiji, together with Tuvalu and Australia, convened the Pre-COP31 Meeting in Nadi, culminating in the *Taku Pakasoa* Declaration, a shared commitment to safeguarding the 1.5°C goal.

For Fiji, the Pacific and SIDS, keeping 1.5°C alive is a life line. It is also a legal obligation, a moral responsibility, and a duty by all Member States that we owe to present and future generations.

Vinaka vakalevu. Thank you.

END

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