

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 27 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit a statement in relation to the Security Council open debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in connection with the item entitled “Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges”, held on 26 January 2023 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Satyendra Prasad
Ambassador/Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 27 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Open debate of the Security Council on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in connection with the item entitled “Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges”

26 January 2023

1. I have the honour of addressing this council on behalf of the members of the Pacific Islands Forum with presence at the United Nations.
2. We thank you for convening this open debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
3. The Pacific Islands Forum is a steadfast supporter of United Nations peacebuilding efforts. We believe in the potential for peacebuilding to enhance political dialogues, assist in conflict prevention and resolution and allow countries to strengthen their peace dividends.
4. As we seek to review, evolve and strengthen the Security Council’s work on peacebuilding in the twenty-first century, we must understand and incorporate contemporary threats to international peace and security, including but not limited to food insecurity, pandemic diseases and climate change.
5. Pacific Islands Forum members have recognized climate change as the single greatest threat to the well-being, security and livelihoods of Pacific peoples. Our Leaders have accordingly declared a climate emergency in our region.
6. We understand the cross-cutting and force-multiplying nature of the climate threat, which already undermines Pacific health, food security, development goals, disaster resilience, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic recovery efforts, territorial integrity and social cohesion.
7. We have also seen first-hand the importance of initiatives such as the Peacebuilding Fund’s climate security project implemented in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organization for Migration, in addition to national partners Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands. This project is key to enabling our region to build a more inclusive understanding around climate security and to find community solutions to the climate crisis facing our Pacific Island nations.
8. We look forward to seeing such initiatives expanded in our region and the resulting experience, data and analytics used to inform peacebuilding efforts in this Council and the wider United Nations system.
9. We support peacebuilding investments that seek to promote societal resilience through the empowerment of women, youth, the disabled and marginalized groups. Inclusive peacebuilding investment is key to ensuring that peacebuilding dividends are sustainable in the long term.
10. In closing, the members of our Forum sincerely hope that this open debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace will lead to greater understanding of the complex factors which will define peacebuilding in the twenty-first century. We hope this understanding will lead to better investment in people, societies and institutions in the name of peacebuilding and resilience.
11. We encourage this Council to interact with non-Council members and other United Nations bodies to further this aim. We support the Peacebuilding Commission.

12. We must continue to invest in prevention and peacebuilding activities under the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace and look forward to the high-level, multi-stakeholder "Summit of the Future" later this year.
 13. We call upon all Member States to join us in carrying forward this important work.
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