

Speaker's full names	H.E MR. IOANE NAIVALURUA
Speaker's full title	MINISTER OF POLICING AND COMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY OF POLICING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Name of the Member State of the Speaker	REPUBLIC OF FIJI
Session of the High-Level Segment at which the statement will be delivered	SESSION 2- MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2025
The original language of the Statement	ENGLISH
The contact details of the speaker's focal point	Mr Avish Naidu- Director Digital Transformation. Email – avish.naidu@digitalfiji.gov.fj Phone – (+679)9983728

The Hon. Minister for Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, our Gracious Host

The Chair of the Conference

Secretary-General

Director BDT

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Bula vinaka and Good Afternoon

I bring you warm greetings from the Government and People of Fiji. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Azerbaijan for their warm hospitality. Vinaka Vakalevu!

Excellencies, in the Fijian culture, “**solesolevaki**” is the coming together of a village or community to build a house, harvest a field, or achieve a goal that could not be easily managed alone. It demonstrates that we achieve great goals **only through collective action**. And in our determination as a country to grow and develop, we recognise that telecommunications and ICT is the glue across our sectors and a key enabler to achieve the SDGs. But collective action is needed to continue to build trust and

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confidence amongst States and is reflected in the very essence of the ITU. And it is this spirit that Fiji brings to WTDC-25.

Excellencies, **2.6 billion people in digital darkness is unacceptable.** For Small Island Developing States like Fiji, this threatens our sustainable development. While Fiji has **connected 96% of our people across 300 islands**, our **mission is to close the final coverage and usage gaps. For us, 100% connectivity is essential.**

Fiji's approach is clear: we think globally, plan regionally, and act nationally.

Collectively, our mission is twofold:

1. Deliver meaningful, affordable, open and secure access to everyone, everywhere.
2. Prioritise resourcing and equip our people with the skills to turn that access into sustainable development.

To make this a reality, Fiji calls for two immediate actions from the WTDC:

1. **Strengthen Resolution 16;** and
2. **Adopt the draft new resolution** to implement our Pacific-led **Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation.**

Fiji is advancing its digital journey. Our national digital and cybersecurity strategies are built on equity, climate and cyber resilience, and sustainability. We are connecting our nation—from fibre and 5G to remote satellite access. We are investing in digital literacy for economic inclusion. And we are building green, disaster-resilient infrastructure.

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Through these efforts, Fiji is committed to being the digital hub of the Pacific— where technology empowers our people, strengthens regional connection and contributes to global connectivity.

Just as '**solesolevaki**' teaches that we succeed only through collective action, we cannot build a connected, resilient future in isolation. We need global durable partnerships. Therefore, we warmly welcome the ITU's continued partnership, and we urge deeper programme alignments. And we welcome strengthened collaboration with all States and stakeholders in shaping our collective futures and bridging the digital and gender divides.

Excellencies, in conclusion, our shared objective is to empower our people and leave no one behind. Fiji therefore reaffirms its commitment to a global rules-based order and to an open, secure, stable, and accessible ICT environment for all.

Thank you and Vinaka Vakalevu.