



## MINISTER FOR DEFENCE AND VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

HONOURABLE PIO TIKODUADUA

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### Speech at United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025

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**Federal Foreign Office**

**Berlin, Germany**

**14 April, 2025**

Distinguished Delegates,

Honoured Guests,

Excellencies,

Bula Vinaka and warm greetings to all.

It is an honor to speak on behalf of the people of Fiji today.

As a small island nation in the heart of the Pacific, Fiji has proudly contributed to United Nations peacekeeping missions for over four decades and we remain the highest per capita contributor to peacekeeping than any other state.

This contribution is not only a point of national pride but is deeply woven into our values, culture, and sense of responsibility to the world. This was reaffirmed in our recent **National Security and Defence Review**, which highlighted that peacekeeping remains an integral part of Fiji's strategic personality.

Our vision for peace is fundamentally shaped by our Pacific heritage. As Prime Minister the Honourable **Sitiveni Rabuka** has articulated, Fiji embraces the concept of "**Oceans of Peace**." This vision reflects the deep responsibility we feel as a Pacific Island nation for our region to be a beacon of peace, cooperation, and dialogue in a world increasingly defined by complex global challenges.

Today, I have the honour to reaffirms Fiji's pledges to strengthen the United Nations' peacekeeping efforts:

**First**, we will develop the **Blackrock Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief Camp** to deliver UN accredited UN training and serve as a hub for peacekeeping training in the Pacific.

**Second**, we pledge the creation of a **mounted Quick Reaction Force consisting of at least 15% women** ready to deploy rapidly to peacekeeping missions.

**Third**, we will provide a **Level 1 Field Hospital** to support peacekeeping missions.

**Fourth**, Fiji is committed to **increasing women's participation in peace operations**. As part of this commitment, we will undertake a UN Elsie Initiative Fund supported **barrier assessment** and develop a **WPS Action Plan** to identify and remove obstacles to women's involvement in peacekeeping.

**Fifth**, The Fiji Police Force will contribute fifty Individual Police Officers with at least 50% female participation and deploy twenty IPOs for specialized Police Teams in the fields of investigations, forensic science and water riverine policing.

These pledges reflect our identity as Pacific Islanders dedicated to the values of cooperation, respect, and shared responsibility.

**Vinaka vakalevu. Thank you.**