

## **Fiji general debate excerpt**

Fiji spoke from the perspective of a small island state whose people depend on a rules-based international system, practical development finance, and respect for sovereign equality. The statement emphasized that ocean protection, resilient public services, health systems, education, and disaster preparedness are not abstract agenda items but everyday questions for communities spread across many islands. It called for partnerships that listen to local priorities, strengthen regional cooperation in the Pacific, and make global institutions more responsive to countries with limited administrative capacity. Fiji also urged member states to treat trust, peace, and implementation as the measure of multilateralism: promises should lead to accessible funding, technology transfer, better infrastructure, and fairer representation. The speech closed by framing solidarity as a practical duty, asking larger states and international organizations to work with island communities rather than around them.