Madam Chair and distinguished delegates,
Greetings, Bula Vinaka.

Climate crisis is now at the heart of our vulnerabilities and we are not equal in the face of it. Gender discriminatory stereotypes, limited decision-making power, burden of domestic work and unpaid care, as well as unequal access to important resources—including basic services, finance, land, education, information and technology—worsen women and girls’ vulnerability to climate change.

The National Climate Change Policy, the Climate Change Act, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Green Growth Framework, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, the Fiji Social Protection Policy; a cluster system where each cluster is
responsible for coordinating efforts to meet a different need bringing together Government departments, UN agencies, NGOs and community groups with the most relevant resources to not only identify the gaps, but also to fill them; the National Gender Based Referral Pathways and National Service Delivery Protocol to improve referral and coordination of response services for survivors of gender-based violence; and the construction of the Barefoot College accelerating women’s participation in the adoption of renewable energy technologies and climate-smart agricultural practices, are amongst the coherent projects, and legislative and policy frameworks in the context of gender, environment and disaster risk reduction that cements Fiji’s commitment.

Madam Chair,
Looking ahead with a long-term vision to accelerate realization of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, the Fijian Government’s efforts and investments (2022-2026) will be focused on three (3) strategic priority areas; ending gender based violence against all women and girls, promoting women’s economic empowerment and improving protection, preparedness & resilience to disaster for all women and girls. This will be
realized through the application of a ‘whole of government’, ‘whole of population’, transformative and evidence based approaches and initiatives with emphasis on leadership and decision making for all women and girls, challenging discriminatory social norms as well as a comprehensive gender transformative institutional capacity development, gender responsive budgeting and improvement on availability and access to quality sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics in particular on the gender effects of climate change, management of natural resources, use of environmentally friendly technologies, ownership and green jobs.

Madam Chair

In the aftermath of the 13 climate catastrophes that we have faced since Fiji signed the Paris Agreement, we had met and supported thousands of women and girls who had lost everything they had. We can do this as best as we can as a Government and as a people but this is not enough. I call on all of you – the international community to secure the 1.5 Celsius irreversibly. We need comprehensive gender informed biodiversity targets and firm gender informed commitments to restoring ocean heath. We need women and girls to be able to access 50 percent climate
financing. We need to bring women and girls into the centre stage from the margins in this super year of nature and oceans. We need a leap of political will. We need a collective step up in urgency this CSW66. I urge you to join women and girls across Fiji in taking these steps forward together because our future generations deserve nothing less. Vinaka