

Statement by Fiji at MEPC 71 on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships

5 July 2017, International Maritime Organization, London, United Kingdom

Bula vinaka and a very good morning Mr. Chairman and delegates

Ladies and gentlemen, this year marks a historic moment for Fiji as we take on the role of incoming COP 23 Presidency, a role that comes with great responsibility for a small island developing State, as we, together with our fellow Pacific island States, will take centre stage in Bonn Germany to push for accelerated effort on climate action from world leaders.

In our role as COP 23 President, Fiji strongly urges that the spirit of the Paris Agreement is fully embraced by IMO and more specifically, that the IMO Strategy for reducing GHG emissions from ships is fully aligned with the Paris Agreement temperature goals, namely to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius and – of particular importance to Fiji as a small island developing State – to aim for 1.5 degrees.

Fiji is encouraged by the open debates and willingness of member States to cooperate on the matter as witnessed last week at the GHG intersessional, but at the same time strongly stresses the urgency with which this matter has to be addressed. Fiji therefore requests IMO to consider adopting an ambitious vision for the initial GHG strategy this week and facilitate constructive discussions on the structure and elements contained within the Strategy.

Furthermore, we seek support from member States as Fiji intends to host a side event at COP 23 with IMO in collaboration with China to showcase the excellent initiative of IMO, EU and developing countries through the Global MTCC network project on low carbon shipping.

Thank you and vinaka vakalevu