



## UNOC

### Panel 9: Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 9.00am–12.00pm

#### Talking Points

Delivered on behalf of the Honourable Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka,  
Prime Minister of Fiji

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**Excellencies and Distinguished Co-Chairs, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. Excellencies, distinguished delegates,
2. Food security is a complex challenge, both globally and for our nations. In the Pacific, key to both livelihoods, nutrition, and overall food security is our fisheries sector. For generations, our oceans have nourished us. Nearly **nine in ten Pacific households** depend on fish or seafood for weekly protein, and **26 percent of families** actively engage in fishing. Yet, this source of sustenance and economic productivity is under threat.

Climate change bleaches our coral reefs, and ocean heat waves continue to change and harm our access to fish. These factors, paired with market access issues, illegal unlicensed and unregulated fishing, aging infrastructure, and shifting global demands, are presenting us with complex and multi-faceted challenges.

3. But we are not passive in the face of these challenges. To safeguard both our people and our oceans, we are pioneering solutions. We urge coastal communities to adopt **responsible fishing practices** and invest in **sustainable aquaculture**. Innovation is key—transforming our food systems to be resilient, productive, and in harmony with nature.
4. Fiji and our Pacific neighbors are committed to regional action. We champion the **2015 Noumea Strategy** and **Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries**, frameworks designed to maximize food security and economic benefits while preserving marine resources.
5. We're advancing the **Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy**, a bold plan to future-proof aquaculture against climate shocks

and poverty. Our **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**, endorsed by regional leaders, unites us in a vision of sustainability, resilience, and opportunity—harnessing the ocean’s potential to eradicate poverty and uplift communities.

6. Critically, we’re scaling up **community-based fisheries management**, empowering local voices to protect their resources, boost food security, and create livelihoods. These efforts are not just policies—they are lifelines for survival.
7. Yet, Pacific SIDS face unique vulnerabilities. Our small economies, remote geographies, and acute exposure to climate disasters demand global recognition of our “special circumstances.” Effective solutions require partnerships. We collaborate with international allies to gather data, implement projects, and build systems that ensure **healthy communities** and **sustainable food futures** for all.
8. The Pacific Ocean is not just our heritage—it is a shared asset for humanity. Through innovation, community stewardship, and unwavering cooperation, we can secure a future where food

security is guaranteed, our oceans thrive, and our people prosper.

9. Let us move forward together—not as isolated islands, but as a connected continent of hope, resilience, and shared purpose.

Thank you.

DRAFT