



STATEMENT BY MR. ESALA NAYASI
PERMANENT MISSION OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AGENDA 56: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
14th October 2008

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election. My

government policies over the years, there is still a lot to be done in ensuring gender equality in all areas of our economy.

In Fiji, the Government machinery for Women has recently been merged with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. We believe that this merger will bring about the

much needed integration of gender equality perspectives in all spheres of health, development and management. Furthermore, it also means that the Department of

Women will have more access to additional resources and the wider network of health and related infrastructure and processes available as a platform for gender equality and women's empowerment.

Mr. Chairman,

The pivotal role women play in the family, community and nation building cannot be overemphasized. Bearing this in mind, the Government of Fiji has