

# INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL RELATIONS

## Fact Sheet

### BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, Fiji has strengthened its relations both regionally and internationally. Fiji has always attempted to maintain its relations on two fronts -internationally and regionally to promote cooperation, peace and prosperity.

Government will continue to focus on strengthening relationships with the global family through participation in the international forums, respecting the provisions of international treaties, rules based orders and fostering mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral relationships. In the area of international trade, there is a need to strengthen Aid for Trade relationships and secure development assistance through the bilateral and multilateral arrangements. Fiji's foreign missions and trade offices are expected to play more proactive roles in securing trade development assistance.

### CURRENT STATUS

Fiji's success in building a strong and sustainable economy will be fundamentally linked to its global and regional engagements. This will require continuous engagement in the areas of trade, investment, international relations, diplomacy and establishing people to people links.

Fiji has established Trade Commissions in New Zealand, Australia, the United States of America and China. The Trade Commissions aim to contribute to Fiji's economic prosperity through improving market access for Fijian products and services; investment and export promotion; trade facilitation in areas of quarantine, customs, ports and immigration; market Research and Intelligence for investment and export; creating and strengthening networks with relevant public and private stakeholders; providing consular assistance; and targeting promotional campaigns to promote Fiji as an ideal business destination.

### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. *Maintaining regional leadership:* As a regional hub, Fiji is expected to lead the charge in addressing common regional challenges such as climate change, economic vulnerabilities and security concerns.
2. *Regional solidarity and cooperation:* Working together with Pacific Island countries to address common challenges, harness shared strengths, and ensure that our individual and collective advancement brings benefits to all Pacific people.
3. *Regional stability:* Establishing a fully integrated region is also the pathway to prosperity.
4. *Renewed cooperation:* Secure better governance, more effective resource management and more benefits from the resources flowing back to Pacific Islanders.
5. *Foreign policy:* Develop a robust foreign policy framework that will further strengthen Fiji's international relations within the community of multilateral nations.

## **FUTURE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

- **Positioning Fiji as a modern and regional hub of the Pacific:**
  - ✓ Strengthen Fiji's role as a sovereign and regional trade hub through collaboration with Forum Island countries.
  - ✓ Strengthen Fiji's participation in multilateral trade negotiations.
  - ✓ Develop partnerships with donor agencies and regional organizations.
  - ✓ Support the relevant enablers to realize sustainable livelihoods and well-being for Fijians.
  - ✓ Enhance Social Development and productive labour mobility.
  - ✓ Enhance Public Diplomacy and promote Fiji's cultural diversity.
  - ✓ Increase awareness and international recognition of the diverse Fijian culture.
  
- **Fiji's Official Overseas Engagements:**
  - ✓ Deeper cooperation with regional neighbours, Australia and New Zealand for more access to work opportunities for Fiji citizens and for greater skills exchange and investment.
  - ✓ Develop a long term plan with incentives for our diaspora to return and invest in Fiji.
  - ✓ Timely submission of reports on 9 human rights treaties.
  
- **Global Leadership - advancing Fiji's interest at international and sub-regional levels:**
  - ✓ Hosting of international and regional conferences and meeting in Fiji.
  - ✓ Explore opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations with strategic partners.
  - ✓ Provide lead and support roles to regional and sub-regional forums.

- **Strengthen Regional solidarity, collaboration and partnerships:**
  - ✓ Strengthen regional cooperation with MSG, PICTA, IEPA and IPEF partners to address common challenges and leverage shared opportunities.
  - ✓ Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries.
  
- **Enhance Fiji's trade and economic position globally:**
  - ✓ Participate in and shape beneficial trade and economic partnerships.
  - ✓ Conduct an analysis and offer recommendations that foster Fiji's participation in regional and multilateral trade agreements.
  - ✓ Strengthen Fiji's foreign direct investment and trade performance.