Thank You Madam Chair, A Warm Pacific Greeting to you and the Delegates.

We in the Pacific highly appreciate the great work put in by the IAEG. Last week, the Pacific Region endorsed a final draft of what we call the Regional Pacific SDG Headline Indicators which consisted of 109 indicators. The consideration was that the 109 indicators will tell a Pacific regional development story to the rest of the world. What are our aspirations, achievement but also what are our challenges. The largest number of indicators is for the health and education sectors which speaks a lot about the priority of the Pacific region and the indicators that are regularly compiled and reported.

The biggest challenge we face on the reporting of these indicators is having an understanding of the methodology and access to the right data source. This is particularly critical when we have a number of indicators sitting in tier 3. Over 60% of these indicators are measurable or are in Tier 1 while the remaining 40% are in tier 3 and we eagerly await further developments on the methodology and data source.

We fully support the Regular Review of indicators and the requirement for development partners to work closely with member countries in developing data sources and methodologies. This is particularly important for small island member countries.

Finally, I would like to urge the Commission to consider carefully the 109 indicators suggested by the Pacific region that they be included in the Global set of SDG Indicators.

We in the Pacific would like to tell our story at the global level and not be left behind. Therefore we ask that the 109 indicators from the Pacific region be included in the global list.

We will be submitting specific comments and proposals on some of the 109 indicators.

Thank You Madam Chair