

Mr. Chair,

Speaking from the Chair of Fiji, I also speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Island UN member countries national statistical offices.

In response to the points for discussion in Paragraph 33, we acknowledge and support the work being done with respect to the measurement of international trade and economic globalization.

Having said this, for many Pacific Island countries NSOs, particularly the smaller Island states, this measurement although important, is beyond the capacity of many Pacific Island Countries and Territories. As already reported to the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, some work is being done in the following areas:

- The Secretariat of the Pacific Community provides assistance to countries to produce quality and timely **International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)**, in line with the *IMTS Compilers Manual 2010*.
- And SPC is also leading the process of assisting Pacific island countries in setting-up **Business Registers**, with the Fiji Bureau of Statistics providing very valuable and widely appreciated **South-South facilitation**. To guide the process, SPC and the Australian Bureau of Statistics have recently partnered to produce a *Pacific Business Register Development Guide*, which has been well received by Pacific Islands NSOs.

Thank you Mr. Chair