



PERMANENT MISSION OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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21 March, 2016

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

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Dear Secretary-General,

At the meeting you kindly arranged at your office on 19 February, you mentioned to me that if your schedule permits you would like to visit Fiji this year. I have since been informed that the Prime Minister and Government of Fiji would be delighted to welcome you to Fiji if you are able to find the time.

By way of personal advice, may I suggest that a Fiji visit in 2016 would be timely, providing an opportunity to underline some very important Climate Change issues. In the wake of Fiji's devastation by Tropical Cyclone Winston, the Southern Hemisphere's strongest storm on record, the linkage between implementation of the Paris Agreement and the humanitarian consequences of lack of ambition in this regard will resonate. The Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama, will be stressing this point when he attends the April signing event for the Paris Agreement in New York, as well as the Humanitarian Summit in Turkey in May.

Your proposed visit to Fiji would also be an opportunity to highlight the excellent cooperation between the Government of Fiji's NDMO and the UN agencies based in Fiji, along with the ready assistance provided by overseas partners. This cooperation serves as an example of good practice of disaster preparedness and response at a time when we need to be learning from each other on matters of resilience. Further, your visit would give heart to the people of Fiji as they recover from the devastation of TC Winston, assuring them that the international community cares about their welfare.

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Two other topics that would add to the timeliness of your visit are the state of the Ocean and the demand for UN Peacekeepers. As you know, the General Assembly has mandated the holding of a UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG14. The conference will be pivotal to the driving of SDG14's success. I'm pleased to report that preparations are now underway for the conference, which will be held in Fiji in June 2017.

On the subject of UN Peacekeeping, as a reliable supplier of blue helmet personnel for the past four decades, Fiji attended the Peacekeeping Summit hosted by President Obama and your good self in September 2015. At that summit, the Prime Minister of Fiji pledged further Fiji assistance to the UN Peacekeeping cause. Your visit would provide an opportunity to thank the generations of Fijians who have faithfully served in the blue helmet over the last 38 years.

I avail myself to be of assistance to your office in further consideration of the proposed visit. For the convenience of your schedule, your office should be aware that Fiji has direct commercial flights to Los Angeles, Seoul and many other Pacific destinations such as the cities of Australia, New Zealand, China and the Pacific Island countries.

As mentioned above, Prime Minister Bainimarama will be in New York in April for the Paris Agreement signing ceremony. May I suggest that a meeting between the Prime Minister and yourself be arranged for that time, during which the proposed visit could be touched upon.

With assurances, Excellency, of my highest consideration at all times in support of your far-reaching responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Thomson
Permanent Representative