Bula vinaka your Excellencies. My name is Alfred Ralifo. I am from Fiji and I’m speaking on behalf of Climate Action Network International.

COP 23 will be the first Pacific Island COP. Few places on earth are more vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change than Pacific Island Nations for whom climate change is a survival issue.

We hope that the reality of these impacts and losses and damages will bring home the urgency of the need to achieve substantive progress towards meeting the objectives agreed to in Paris.

Constructive negotiations on the Paris rulebook, that do not get bogged down in technical wrangling, will ensure we are on track to finalise these details by 2018 so as to guarantee that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is able to deliver on the ambition it embodies.

COP 23 can further keep the 1.5°C target alive by setting in motion the process for a successful Facilitative Dialogue in 2018 that will trigger a willingness to revise and enhance NDCs by 2020.

We hope that the Fiji Presidency will provide political guidance to increase the momentum for preventing and responding to impacts through concerted efforts to deepen the discussions on adaptation and loss and damage which have not yet got the place they deserve in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Thank you.