

Howard Politini
Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) – Fiji
Tuesday, 09:42 Venue: Uskudar 1:2 ICC

- The Pacific Island Private Sector Organization is the premier private sector representative body in the Pacific Islands region. With the support of the Connecting Business initiative, we will host a network for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery.
- We are committed to working with the Connecting Business initiative, governments and others to strengthen private sector engagement. We will work with our members to build their resilience and the resilience of their communities, and to coordinate a regional private sector response to emergencies when required.
- We will work closely with the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation, which will host the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council. A representative from FCEF joins me today to announce our joint efforts.

Fiji Government statement

- [Insert statement regarding the recent experience of TC Winston, recurrent experiences of natural disasters in Fiji and the Pacific region, and the impact of climate change]
- To address these challenges, it is vital that Governments work with the private sector to decrease disaster risk, address climate change and mobilize businesses to contribute to response and recovery efforts following disasters.
- Recognizing the importance of working with and mobilizing the private sector, I am pleased to support the Connecting Business initiative, in particular its work in Fiji and the Pacific to build and strengthen private sector-led networks for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery. I welcome the partnership with the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation, which will host the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council, and the Pacific Island Private Sector Organization, which will host a private sector-led network for the Pacific region.
- In support of these efforts, the Government of Fiji commits to collaborating with the private sector to identify opportunities for and implement public-private partnerships ahead of emergencies. Forming these relationships ahead of time will mean that we can jointly respond more effectively and more rapidly after a disaster.
- I also commit to integrating the private sector, through the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council, into national disaster management processes and planning. We will do so as part of the current review of the National Disaster Management Legislation and Plan, as well as by forming relationships between the Government-led clusters and the private sector. Furthermore, a representative of the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council, will join the national Disaster Management Council. These steps will ensure that we form strong partnerships with the private sector to work together to reduce disaster risk and respond to disasters when they occur.
- The Government of Fiji also commits to working with other governments in the region, with the Pacific Island Private Sector Organization and with the Connecting Business initiative to strengthen private sector engagement across the Pacific, and I turn now to my colleague from PIPSO.