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**Statistical Commission
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Agenda item 3(d)**

**Statement by Mr. Mathew Chigiya
Assistant Secretary
Department of Resource and Development**

New York, 9 March 2016

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Madame Chair,

On behalf of my delegation and that of other Pacific Island SIDS attending this 47th UN Statistical Commission, we acknowledge receipt of this report finalising the evaluation of the 2011 ICP round by the Friends of the Chair group, and its recommendations regarding the organisation of future ICP rounds.

- a. We are pleased to take note of many improvements brought about in the latest comparison round through methodological innovations, and the substantial increase in the number of participating countries, including those from our region, and we would hope to see their continued inclusion in future rounds.
- b. We are pleased to endorse the reports' main recommendations, in particular the proposal for an increased frequency of the programme and its integration as a regular element in the global statistical programme. We also strongly support the proposal to disallow changes in methodology following the calculation of preliminary results. And we acknowledge the benefits derived from the proposed *rolling benchmark* approach.
- c. Finally, we strongly share the report's view that the approach requires a permanent sustainable funding mechanism. Furthermore, besides sustainable funding for the implementation of a regular work plan, our region would also benefit from some dedicated technical assistance regarding the development of additional detailed statistical indicators required for the rollover approach – something that could perhaps be jointly pursued with the Pacific Community's Statistics for programme and the IMF's Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre, PFTAC.

Thank you Madame Chair.