OUTCOMES OF THE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

We the participants of the Transitional Justice Pacific Roundtable, held in Denarau, Fiji Islands, from 24 to 27 June 2008,

RECOGNISING the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

RECALLING the histories of our States and of the various communities within our States that have made us what we are,

VALUING the diversity and richness of the different cultures, traditions, faiths and languages within our States and the contributions of all communities and individuals to the welfare of our States,

TAKING PRIDE in our common heritage in belonging to this Region and acknowledging the legacy which we will bestow on future generations of our peoples,

CONVINCED of our role in educating our communities on the need to live in unity and harmony with each other and in assisting our States to transition into democratic states where the rule of law and human rights are recognised and protected,

Affirm

1. the fundamental importance and indivisibility of the principles of parliamentary democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the independence of the judiciary and the achievement of social justice for all;

2. that the constitution is the supreme law of the land and should be respected, upheld and adhered to;

3. that any amendments to the constitution must be made in conformity with the provisions therein, after the widest possible consultation and with democratic participation;

4. that only a democratically elected parliament is mandated to undertake constitutional changes;

5. that the independence of the judiciary should be protected and sustained;
6. that the holding of democratic, periodic, meaningful, fair and equal elections with participation of all persons of all communities, including women and young persons is a fundamental human right;

7. the need for meaningful, fair and equal participation of all persons of all communities, including women and young persons in all processes at all levels of governance and peace-building;

8. the critical role of civil society in the promotion of democracy and accountable government;

9. the need to establish effective governance, oversight and accountability of the security sector, improve and ensure the sustainability of the delivery of security services and build trust, relationships and confidence between security and non-security stakeholders. Further, any reform efforts must have local leadership and ownership;

10. the critical continuing support, including technical and financial assistance, provided by international and regional partners in national efforts to promote transitional justice;

Commit

11. to work towards transitional justice, including ensuring justice according to law, restoring the dignity of all and the preservation of the integrity of truth;

12. to create and sustain institutions and processes which will strengthen democracy and justice for all, including an independent human rights commission, the freedom of speech and media, freedom of information and transparent governance;

13. to strengthen the economy to provide just opportunities for all;

14. to explore and sustain regional processes and mechanisms in the interests of the region as a whole, to secure democracy according to law;

15. to pursue and foster linkages with international mechanisms, such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court and others, including international civil society, in order to address human rights violations;

Undertake

to continue the work begun at this roundtable together and work with all other organisations and individuals, and within other processes, to promote the above affirmations and commitments in order to implement strategic plans and actions to bring about their realisation;

This 27th day of June, 2008

Denarau, Fiji

PARTICIPANTS IN THE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE, FIJI.