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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*


Fiji

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-fourth session from 4 to 15 November 2019. The review of Fiji was held at the 5th meeting, on 6 November 2019. The delegation of Fiji was headed by the Chief Justice, Kamal Kumar. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 November 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Fiji.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Fiji: Brazil, Rwanda and Saudi Arabia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Fiji:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/FJI/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/FJI/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/FJI/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Fiji through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that Fiji had worked to implement the majority of the recommendations from the second review cycle, embraced change and shown leadership on global human rights issues. It had ratified all nine core human rights treaties. The Cabinet had approved the withdrawal of the reservation made to article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
6. Fiji had strong constitutional provisions that addressed discrimination on the basis of disability, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, as well as gender identity and expression. It would continue to address discrimination at the structural level, for example in education, or in access to justice or other services.
7. The Constitution had empowered the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission with an expanded anti-discrimination mandate to receive, investigate and take steps to secure appropriate redress if human rights had been violated, including making applications to court for redress or for other forms of relief or remedies.
8. The Government was aware that one of the greatest challenges was to reduce sexual and gender-based violence in Fiji, the root causes of which were patriarchal attitudes towards women and girls.
9. The 2013 Constitution not only provided for civil and political rights but also socioeconomic rights. Fiji remained committed to removing systemic and structural discrimination. The open merit recruitment and selection process had provided all Fijians with an equal opportunity for gainful employment. Fiji had also introduced the National Toppers and the Tertiary Education Scholarships and Loans Schemes, providing equal opportunities for every Fijian as regards quality and accessible education.

10. Fiji had embarked on democratizing the digital space and bridging the digital divide. It also remained committed to working with its tripartite partners to ensure that employment laws were in accordance with International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions.

11. The Constitution guaranteed the independence and impartiality of judges, and of the independence of the institution of the judiciary. The Judicial Department was working to improve court facilities to increase accessibility, including for persons with disabilities. The Judicial Department was determined to reduce the delay in the delivery of decisions and judgments and to introduce case management at all levels of the courts.

12. Judges and magistrates were trained on issues related to gender competence and children appearing in court. The judiciary had used treaty body recommendations and general comments to interpret specific sections of the Bill of Rights, resulting in a body of jurisprudence explaining particular rights, in a manner consistent with international human rights law.

13. The police were responsible for the investigation of criminal matters but the decision whether to prosecute resided with the Director of Public Prosecutions. That often meant that the wishes of the victim were overridden when it appeared that traditional means of reconciliation and forgiveness were being used to justify a request to withdraw a charge and terminate the prosecution. Assault in a domestic context was not a reconcilable offence. In situations in which an offence involved a child victim, processes were immediately put into place to ensure that the child was supported throughout the criminal justice system.

14. Fiji recognized that there was a need for a more concerted effort to encourage all members of the community to feel more comfortable in reporting gender-based violence, including those from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. There was also an increase in incidents of hate speech targeting vulnerable minority groups.

15. No charge of sedition was laid lightly or before a thorough analysis of the evidence. Moreover, there were no political prosecutions in Fiji and with respect to prosecution, it was the crime that was targeted not the individual or organization.

16. Following the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Fiji Police force had endorsed its use of force policy and assigned a dedicated human rights cell under the Directorate of Internal Affairs to independently investigate and report on complaints against police officers for breaches of human rights. In line with the ratification by Fiji of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, it had established the First Hour Procedure. It also had a stringent institutional policy on no reconciliation in cases of gender-based violence, domestic violence and sexual offences.

17. Fiji acknowledged the high reported incidence of sexual and gender-based violence. It would move towards a coordinated effort to establish a national prevention action plan, aimed at reducing tolerance and acceptance of violence, changing attitudes, behaviours and social norms and increasing understanding of the drivers of violence against women and girls.

18. In order to address the issues of gender inequality and the empowerment of women, the Government would focus on women's economic empowerment, the elimination of violence against women, gender and climate change, and women in leadership.

19. The Legal Aid Commission had been founded on the principles of equality and access to justice. The Constitution guaranteed its operational, administrative, and financial independence and required that Parliament adequately fund the Commission. It used an inclusive and holistic approach by working with, inter alia, the poor and marginalized, women and children in vulnerable situations, persons with disabilities, persons with special needs, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. As the largest provider of free legal services in Fiji, it had opened branches in rural, remote and maritime areas.

20. The Commission carried out regular and rostered prison visits and had taken up the cases of prisoners who had alleged ill-treatment and torture and had referred their complaints to the relevant authorities when necessary. Its greatest achievement had been the implementation of the First Hour Procedure, which involved providing legal advice to a

suspect within the first hour of an arrest being made, noting that suspects were most vulnerable during the first few hours of arrest. This had seen a reduction in allegations of ill-treatment and an attitudinal change in the Fiji Police Force when dealing with suspects, with a shift towards actual evidence gathering as opposed to a reliance on confessions. Through the use of technology, Fijians could access the Commission digitally and receive advice directly through its social media platforms.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 97 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. Montenegro commended the proactive approach with the special procedures and treaty bodies and encouraged further steps in combating gender-based violence and protecting the human rights of children.

23. Morocco congratulated Fiji for the ratification of all nine core international human rights instruments, as well as the launching of the First Hour Procedure.

24. Myanmar congratulated Fiji for ratifying all nine core human rights treaties and conventions.

25. Nepal praised the engagement of Fiji with special procedures and stated that it was encouraging to see Fiji as a strong voice for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

26. The Netherlands remained concerned about the high level of sexual violence against women and girls and the rising stigmatization of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.

27. New Zealand welcomed the election of Fiji to the Human Rights Council and commended the progress made towards mainstreaming female political representation and participation in Government.

28. Egypt welcomed the efforts to address climate change and disaster risk reduction, paying special attention to vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities.

29. Nigeria lauded Fiji for its determination and commitment in addressing the effects of climate change, by adopting its first National Adaptation Plan.

30. Pakistan appreciated the efforts of Fiji to empower women, which was demonstrated in the form of the high number of women representatives in the Parliament, cabinet and civil service.

31. Paraguay stated that the creation by Fiji of a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up would extend the implementation of the recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.

32. The Philippines commended Fiji for completing the process of ratification of all nine core human rights treaties and conventions during the period between 2014 and 2019.

33. Portugal welcomed the establishment of a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up and the hosting of a regional consultation on such mechanisms.

34. Qatar applauded the approach adopted in terms of the adaptation to climate change and strengthening resilience and disaster prevention through the National Adaptation Plan.

35. The Republic of Korea appreciated efforts to protect persons with disabilities and welcomed the ratification of the remaining six human rights treaties.

36. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the steps taken to bring national legislation into compliance with international human rights law. It commended Fiji on the abolition of the death penalty.

37. The Russian Federation welcomed the ratification of international human rights treaties and the adoption of laws to implement the recommendations of the second cycle of the universal periodic review.
38. Rwanda commended the establishment of a robust legislative and policy framework to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
39. Saudi Arabia commended efforts to set up a centre for persons with disabilities, providing services and encouraging them to seek adequate work opportunities.
40. Senegal welcomed the efforts made to increase investment in infrastructure, the provision of safe drinking water, access to electricity, free quality education and the best health-care services.
41. Serbia welcomed the launching of the National Adaptation Plan outlining progressive strategies to ensure an inclusive, systematic and strategic approach to climate adaptation and building disaster resilience.
42. Haiti recognized the determination that Fiji had displayed in combating the negative impact of climate change both nationally and internationally.
43. Singapore commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, and the 2019 implementation plan.
44. Slovenia commended Fiji for taking the necessary legislative steps to abolish the death penalty in 2015. It was concerned about the high number of teenage pregnancies in the country.
45. Solomon Islands noted the introduction of the National Gender-based Violence Service Delivery Protocol in 2018, ensuring the provision of appropriate and timely quality services to survivors of gender-based violence.
46. Somalia commended Fiji for accepting most of the recommendations made during the first and the second cycle reviews, and the commitment shown for fulfilling all the remaining recommendations.
47. Spain welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
48. Sri Lanka noted the consistent and targeted investment of Fiji to advance universal primary education, as well as the measures taken to eliminate discrimination against women and gender-based violence.
49. The State of Palestine welcomed efforts to empower women, including through the launch of the National Adaptation Plan, and commended the steps taken in relation to education, particularly for children with disabilities.
50. Switzerland welcomed the ratification of fundamental human rights treaties and the abolition of the death penalty.
51. Thailand commended Fiji for the ratification of all nine core international human rights instruments. It noted the decrease in the number of female political party leaders.
52. Timor-Leste praised the country's commitment to ensuring that the concerns of indigenous communities were duly taken into consideration in all public decision-making.
53. Togo commended the commitment by Fiji to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and for its decisive role in international climate change negotiations.
54. Trinidad and Tobago applauded efforts to build strong and resilient communities in the face of climate change and natural disasters. It acknowledged work on gender-based discrimination.
55. Tunisia welcomed the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the adoption of laws and policies to combat climate change, as well as human trafficking.

56. Ukraine noted the measures taken to implement recommendations from the previous review cycle, especially with regard to ratification of the core human rights treaties and cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

57. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, acknowledged the leadership shown in discussions on the human rights impact of climate change, and encouraged further efforts to tackle gender-based violence.

58. The United States of America commended Fiji on its free and fair elections in 2018 and for taking seriously its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

59. Uruguay commended Fiji for its cooperation with the special procedures, and welcomed recognition of gender equality as a key component of national development and that its legislation was in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

60. Vanuatu commended the steps taken by Fiji in building resilience to climate change and strengthening national efforts for the realization of human rights in the country.

61. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended the ratification of core international instruments and welcomed the abolition of all references to the death penalty in the laws of Fiji. It praised the steps taken in ensuring the right to housing and education.

62. Viet Nam commended the strong commitment of Fiji to the advancement of the rights of women and children, especially in the context of mitigating the negative impact of climate change.

63. Afghanistan acknowledged the adoption of effective policies to protect citizens' rights in the face of the rising threats from climate change and other natural disasters.

64. Albania encouraged Fiji to combat domestic violence. It noted that the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly continued to be restricted.

65. Algeria welcomed the National Adaptation Plan, which included measures to reduce poverty and reduce the spread of tropical and non-communicable diseases.

66. Angola commended the pledge to develop its national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and acknowledged the leadership of Fiji on climate change and the environment.

67. Argentina congratulated Fiji for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and welcomed its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

68. Armenia appreciated the cooperation of Fiji with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and noted with satisfaction efforts to launch the Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign.

69. Australia welcomed the appointment of a Chair to the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission.

70. The delegation of Fiji stated that, regarding trafficking in human beings, Fiji was active in prosecuting offenders, training prosecutors and extending support to victims. Courts had developed jurisprudence on offences concerning trafficking in human beings and used international jurisprudence to help develop case law.

71. The Constitution defined any person under the age of 18 as a child. The age of criminal responsibility was 10 years. Children between the ages of 14 and 17 were defined as juveniles, for whom sentences never exceeded two years. Courts considered many other options before passing down a prison sentence on a juvenile.

72. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was in the process of setting up a support officer for victims of violence against women and girls. The authorities were cooperating with civil society organizations regarding counselling and victim impact statements before the courts.

73. Regarding laws safeguarding freedom of expression, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions reviewed cases when persons had been charged, ensuring sufficient evidence was produced, in the absence of which the charges were withdrawn. No prosecutions took place against persons who had criticized the Government, however, hate speech was an important limitation on the freedom of expression.

74. The Fiji Police Force had incorporated human rights and international human rights treaties in all training manuals. Training and awareness-raising was done in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission and regional partners.

75. Women and girls were encouraged to report domestic violence through the different avenues available, including email and mobile service providers.

76. The Constitution put justifiable limitations on the freedom of expression and assembly, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, balancing rights with the maintenance of public order and national security.

77. The Constitution had strong provisions for its implementation and empowered the judiciary to use international law. People were also able to go directly to the courts. The Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission had constitutional status and could investigate violations and bring cases before the courts.

78. Fiji was extremely concerned about the degradation of the environment. Environmental impact statements were mandatory before development was permitted. Indigenous people who owned land had to be consulted and a high degree of consent sought.

79. Fiji had passed the Online Safety Act to protect people from incidents in which they had been targeted on the grounds of gender, race or religion.

80. Fiji had a policy of zero tolerance with regard to corporal punishment in schools and courts had upheld this.

81. Fiji had completed a sexual and reproductive health and rights assessment, focusing on services, staff and training. The school curriculum was being revised to provide comprehensive sex education in line with international standards and guidelines.

82. Fiji ensured that the views of persons with disabilities were represented in disaster management. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 ensured the right to inclusive education for all persons with disabilities, including a specific “no-rejection” clause for schools and the provision of reasonable accommodation.

83. Fiji had established the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children and work was in progress to develop standards for shelters. Helplines for victims of domestic violence, including children, had been established. Counselling for the survivors of gender-based violence was being provided in cooperation with civil society organizations.

84. The Legal Aid Commission carried out regular community awareness-raising and training on gender-based violence and the Domestic Violence Act, aimed at empowering women. Assistance was provided to victims in a rapid manner.

85. A significant reduction in cases of allegations of torture had been observed. Legal aid had been successful in having confessions thrown out in situations in which it had been proven that there had been ill-treatment.

86. Azerbaijan commended the pledge by Fiji to develop its national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and congratulated it for its leadership on climate change.

87. The Bahamas noted the robust legislative and policy framework in relation to disaster response, the National Adaptation Plan, the Planned Relocation Guidelines and the First Hour Procedure.
88. Belarus noted the focus on human rights in the context of climate change. It was concerned about unresolved issues, such as trafficking in human beings and the low level of social support.
89. Belgium congratulated Fiji on its progress in ratifying international human rights treaties and for abolishing the death penalty. It saw room for further improvement, especially with regard to women's rights.
90. Bhutan noted with satisfaction that the National Adaptation Plan complemented the Sustainable Development Goals. It noted progress in eliminating discrimination against women and gender-based violence.
91. Botswana noted the strong commitment of Fiji to global efforts to tackle climate change. It commended Fiji on its consistent cooperation with human rights mechanisms.
92. Brazil encouraged Fiji to reinforce measures to fight sexual exploitation and abuse of children.
93. Brunei Darussalam was pleased to note that the National Adaptation Plan supported women's full and effective participation in decision-making processes, equal opportunities for leadership and right to economic resources.
94. Bulgaria appreciated universal access to primary education and the high number of children that were given access to secondary and tertiary education.
95. Canada urged Fiji to engage men and boys in efforts to challenge negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours and to promote respectful relationships based on gender equality.
96. Chile welcomed the adoption of the National Adaptation Plan and encouraged Fiji to implement the Plan applying a human rights perspective.
97. China noted efforts to promote social and economic development, respond to the negative effects of climate change, and address the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
98. Costa Rica welcomed the National Adaptation Plan and the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
99. Croatia encouraged Fiji to address discrimination against women and girls, and trafficking in women and children.
100. Cuba welcomed the fact that Fiji paid special attention to climate change and disaster risk reduction.
101. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Fiji for its commitment and efforts to advance and protect the fundamental human rights principles and values through a robust national legal framework, strong institutions and national policies.
102. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
103. Denmark commended the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the political will of Fiji to address violence against women. It remained concerned about underreporting of violence against women.
104. The Dominican Republic appreciated efforts to improve the regulatory and institutional human rights framework.

105. Ecuador welcomed the ratification of international human rights treaties, the adoption of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the National Adaptation Plan and the Planned Relocation Guidelines.
106. Nicaragua made recommendations.
107. France welcomed the abolition of the death penalty in military law, and the ratification of several international human rights treaties.
108. Gabon welcomed efforts to combat climate change and natural disasters.
109. Georgia welcomed the pledge of Fiji to develop a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up.
110. Germany welcomed the engagement of Fiji in the framework of the Human Rights Council and its engagement for the protection of the environment.
111. Ghana commended Fiji for ratifying six core human rights treaties during the period from 2014 to 2019, and for addressing climate change and promoting disaster resilience in the Pacific and beyond.
112. Guyana congratulated Fiji for having ratified all nine core human rights treaties and applauded the First Hour Procedure project. It commended the National Climate Change Policy and National Adaptation Plan.
113. Seychelles commended Fiji for its leadership role in ensuring that a human rights approach was adopted within climate change conversations, both nationally and across international forums.
114. The Holy See noted the efforts of Fiji to build a resilient society, capable of facing challenges deriving from climate change and from new social realities.
115. Honduras expressed its satisfaction at the ratification of the nine core human rights treaties and conventions.
116. Iceland welcomed efforts to advance gender equality.
117. India welcomed the National Adaptation Plan, which outlined progressive strategies to ensure an inclusive, systematic and strategic approach to climate adaptation and building disaster resilience.
118. Indonesia noted the leadership that Fiji had shown, both regionally and globally, with the ratification of all core human rights treaties and instruments, and acknowledged human rights training programmes for law enforcement personnel.
119. The Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledged the challenges faced by Fiji in terms of natural disasters related to climate change and their adverse impact on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.
120. Iraq welcomed the steps taken by Fiji to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the country's accession to the international human rights instruments.
121. Ireland welcomed the leadership that Fiji had shown on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex issues at the Human Rights Council. It encouraged Fiji to continue and intensify efforts to combat all forms of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
122. Italy commended the attention paid by Fiji to fight gender-based and domestic violence and to promote human rights education and training for public officials.
123. Japan appreciated the efforts of Fiji to promote democracy and protect human rights, especially those of women, children and persons with disabilities.
124. Jordan commended Fiji for the drafting of the national report, which reflected the continuous commitment of Fiji to promote and protect human rights.
125. Kyrgyzstan highly commended Fiji for having acceded to all nine core human rights treaties and conventions.

126. The Lao People's Democratic Republic congratulated Fiji on the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of persons with disabilities to ensure their full and active participation in society.

127. Liechtenstein made recommendations.

128. Madagascar noted with satisfaction the ratification of all nine core human rights treaties and conventions.

129. Malaysia made recommendations.

130. Maldives welcomed the Climate Reallocation of Communities Trust Fund Act and the Planned Relocation Guidelines to ensure enjoyment of basic human rights and freedoms in the face of climate change and natural disasters.

131. The Marshall Islands commended the ongoing work of Fiji in combating climate change.

132. Mauritius congratulated Fiji on its excellent presidency of the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and on its National Adaptation Plan, the policies of which were centred on a human rights-based approach.

133. Mexico welcomed the ratification by Fiji of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the adoption of the law on persons with disabilities.

134. Israel commended the commitment of Fiji to address the challenges of climate change and ensure that the whole range of human rights continued to be enjoyed by Fijians. It also noted significant legislative steps to ensure women's rights.

135. The delegation of Fiji explained that corporal punishment was considered assault and prohibited under the Crimes Act. Domestic violence legislation was passed in 2009, enabling a court to grant restraining orders. Traditional apologies were not relevant to the decision to charge or prosecute. The Marriage Act did not recognize a marriage of a person under the age of 18 years. Fiji recognized that more needed to be done to assist members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community to report abuse.

136. Fiji faced a heavy implementation and reporting burden in the context of international human rights treaties and conventions. Fiji remained determined to establish a national mechanism on implementation, reporting and follow-up. Fiji had participated in the negotiations in respect of the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) and the Cabinet had approved the presentation of the Convention to Parliament for ratification. Fiji had rejected the previous practice of recruitment of persons in the workplace based on ethnicity. The promotion of women in leadership positions remained a challenge, although Fiji was working on the removal of barriers, including through maternity and paternity leave.

137. The Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission had been working hard with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions to ensure its compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

138. Fiji had introduced a project for the provision of free health care for persons with albinism and the removal of stigma from society in relation to albinism.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

139. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Fiji and enjoy the support of Fiji:**

139.1 **Finalize the ratification of the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

139.2 Create a national mechanism for reporting, implementation and follow-up of human rights recommendations, which enables the establishment of indicators and which is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (Paraguay); Establish a national mechanism for the implementation, reporting and follow-up of recommendations issued by international treaty bodies and mechanisms, in accordance with the voluntary commitments made in this regard (Togo); Follow through with its commitment to establish a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up on human rights recommendations and commitments (Bahamas); Accelerate the establishment of a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up (Thailand);

139.3 Establish a permanent mechanism for consultation with civil society for the drafting of national reports to the universal periodic review and the treaty bodies (Uruguay);

139.4 Implement a national mechanism for following up the recommendations of the international human rights system (Uruguay);

139.5 Implement transparent and effective mechanisms for public consultations with civil society organizations and enable more constructive involvement of civil society in the preparation of law and policy, including the universal periodic review (Vanuatu);

139.6 Continue enhancing its national mechanism for the implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights recommendations (Angola);

139.7 Proceed to the development of its national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up (Azerbaijan);

139.8 Establish a national mechanism for monitoring, implementation and follow-up to ensure effective fulfilment of reporting obligations to the various human rights treaty bodies (Bhutan);

139.9 Continue to consolidate the mechanism for implementation and follow-up of human rights recommendations (Dominican Republic);

139.10 Make progress in fulfilling its commitment to establish a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up in the field of human rights (Ecuador);

139.11 Launch the development of the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up within the next reporting cycle (Georgia);

139.12 Strengthen efforts for the setting up of a national mechanism for monitoring, implementation and follow-up (Mauritius);

139.13 Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

139.14 Continue the efforts made for the promotion and protection of human rights, especially through the establishment of a national human rights institution, the submission of reports to treaty bodies, as well as the implementation of the recommendations from the previous cycle (Morocco);

139.15 Continue to engage with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures (Sri Lanka);

139.16 Continue working with all stakeholders, including the International Labour Organization, to progress issues raised in the joint implementation report (Australia);

139.17 Ensure the effective implementation of the Proceeds of Crime Act in relation to drugs (Somalia);

- 139.18 **Adapt national legislation with a view to guaranteeing the full implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**
- 139.19 **Intensify efforts towards the harmonization of domestic legislation with the international obligations undertaken (Georgia);**
- 139.20 **Continue to strengthen its legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights (Nigeria);**
- 139.21 **Take legislative measures to fully align the national human rights institution with the Paris Principles (Togo); Strengthen the legal framework of the national human rights commission so that it can act independently, with competence to receive and investigate complaints, in line with the Paris Principles (Mexico); Reform the national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**
- 139.22 **Take all necessary steps to ensure the reaccreditation of the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission under the Paris Principles (Australia);**
- 139.23 **Align the statute of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission with the Paris Principles relating to the status of national human rights institutions, ensuring their autonomy and financing (Chile);**
- 139.24 **Strengthen the mandate and independence of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**
- 139.25 **Continue strengthening the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission by further aligning it with the Paris Principles (India);**
- 139.26 **Ensure that the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission enjoys the human, financial and material resources necessary to discharge its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ireland);**
- 139.27 **Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan to build on successes and lessons learned for future iterations of the Plan (Singapore);**
- 139.28 **Ensure that the National Adaptation Plan takes full effect (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 139.29 **Continue efforts to ensure human rights training for police officers (Russian Federation);**
- 139.30 **Further develop and implement the training programmes for officers of the Fiji Police Force, to build up their capacity, in addressing the effective implementation of the Proceeds of Crime Act in relation to illicit drugs (Somalia);**
- 139.31 **Continue the programme of human rights training for the State apparatus and relevant stakeholders, including through the full utilization of bilateral, South-South and other forms of triangular cooperation (Indonesia);**
- 139.32 **Continue providing human rights training to enforcement officers (Malaysia);**
- 139.33 **Continue efforts aimed at promoting education, raising awareness and training in the field of human rights (Jordan);**
- 139.34 **Strive continuously to enhance the rights of women and other vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and the elderly (Bhutan);**
- 139.35 **Take effective measures to better protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);**

- 139.36 Continue to engage positively with human rights organizations to protect all vulnerable groups (Guyana);
- 139.37 Foster social cooperation and dialogue among different ethnic groups in order to effectively address discrimination (Holy See);
- 139.38 Continue to strive towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Italy);
- 139.39 Further strengthen efforts to improve legal and public services in rural areas through outreach activities by mobile teams (Japan);
- 139.40 Continue to take measures to promote respect for cultural diversity and mutual respect (Pakistan);
- 139.41 Continue efforts aimed at the protection of vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly (Mauritius);
- 139.42 Strengthen effective implementation of anti-discrimination legislation to protect and promote the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups (Nepal);
- 139.43 Adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy to eliminate discrimination and enact legislation that specifically prohibits all forms of discrimination on grounds of gender, race or disability, among others (Honduras);
- 139.44 Promote legislation in the field of fighting all forms of discrimination, racism and hate (Jordan);
- 139.45 Repeal provisions in the Criminal Code that criminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Spain);
- 139.46 Amend or repeal all laws that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Spain);
- 139.47 Enhance efforts to combat acts of discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons, guaranteeing investigation and punishment of acts of violence against them (Argentina);
- 139.48 Fight discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including regarding access to health services and HIV treatment, by adequately training health professionals (France);
- 139.49 Continue efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Senegal);
- 139.50 Take necessary steps to combat incitement to racial and ethnic hatred on the Internet and social media, and to guarantee the right of the entire population to freedom of expression and opinion (Argentina);
- 139.51 Strengthen its efforts to eliminate racial discrimination (Bahamas);
- 139.52 Continue its efforts to eliminate racial discrimination (Nicaragua);
- 139.53 Provide a support mechanism for survivors of violence to both genders (Solomon Islands);
- 139.54 Take additional measures to ensure that revenue from mining activities in Fiji supports the country's economic and human development, as well as environmental protection in mining areas (Haiti);
- 139.55 Further intensify awareness-raising programmes for vulnerable groups on the National Climate Change and National Disaster Risk Reduction Policies to ensure their inclusive implementation (Philippines);

- 139.56 Continue its mainstreaming of climate change adaptation across its development activities with the assistance of the international community (Rwanda);
- 139.57 Continue to advance efforts in response to the negative impacts of climate change with a focus on vulnerable groups, including women and children (Viet Nam);
- 139.58 Further promote gender equality and the rights of women in the context of climate change (Viet Nam);
- 139.59 Ensure an inclusive and participatory approach to climate policy as a legislative requirement under the new act (Angola);
- 139.60 Ensure an inclusive and participatory approach to climate policy in legislation (Azerbaijan);
- 139.61 Continue developing public policies to combat climate change and disaster risk reduction by adopting a gender approach (Chile);
- 139.62 Continue along the path of facing climate change with a human rights perspective, by creating mechanisms for the participation of citizens in decision-making, access to justice and reparations (Costa Rica);
- 139.63 Further strengthen the robust legislative and policy framework for building strong and resilient communities to ensure that all Fijians continue to enjoy basic human rights even in the face of climate change and natural disasters (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 139.64 Continue its efforts to adapt to climate change within the framework of its National Adaptation Plan (Dominican Republic);
- 139.65 Continue its work to promote actions against climate change (Nicaragua);
- 139.66 Continue efforts to combat climate change and mitigate its impacts on all segments of society (Egypt);
- 139.67 Involve women in forums dedicated to combating climate change and natural disasters (Gabon);
- 139.68 Intensify the effort to implement robust domestic legislative and policy frameworks to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters (Ghana);
- 139.69 Not to relent in its efforts and commitment to addressing the effects of climate change, with a view to ensuring the enjoyment of human rights by its people (Nigeria);
- 139.70 Adopt an inclusive and participatory approach to climate policy as a legislative requirement under the new climate change legislation (India);
- 139.71 Strengthen measures taken by a robust legislative mechanism to prohibit and prevent all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Madagascar);
- 139.72 Strengthen the mechanism to identify, protect and assist victims of trafficking and to provide them with legal support (Afghanistan);
- 139.73 Take the necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan for the Eradication of Human Trafficking (Armenia);
- 139.74 Continue efforts to fight against human trafficking (Georgia);
- 139.75 Redouble efforts to counter trafficking in persons and other modern forms of slavery, in particular related to children, and to tackle with proper legislation and effective policies episodes of abuse and sexual exploitation of children, especially connected with the tourism sector (Holy See);

- 139.76 Enhance its active participation in the Bali Process mechanism to comprehensively address people smuggling and trafficking in persons in the region (Indonesia);
- 139.77 Continue its efforts to strengthen its measures to protect all persons, including children, from human trafficking (Kyrgyzstan);
- 139.78 Ensure that the perpetrators of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women are brought to justice and punished (Madagascar);
- 139.79 Take the necessary measures to ensure respect for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association, and consider responding favourably to the requested visits by the relevant special procedures (Republic of Korea);
- 139.80 Take legislative measures to ensure that the right to freedom of expression is protected in line with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Moldova);
- 139.81 Safeguard freedom of expression by ensuring that criminal and speech-related legislation are not misused to suppress media, civil society and opposition politicians' criticism of the Government (United States of America);
- 139.82 Take steps to ensure that the rights to freedom of expression and association in Fiji, including those of workers and employers, can be exercised without fear of undue interference by the authorities, including by progressing legislative reform (New Zealand);
- 139.83 Strengthen the efforts to ensure freedom of expression and the protection of journalists, including online (Italy);
- 139.84 Uphold freedom of assembly by ensuring that criminal statutes, such as section 15 of the Public Order (Amendment) Act, are not used to curtail workers' rights to form and join trade unions and to assemble (United States of America);
- 139.85 Promote freedom of association and workers' rights to better defend their interests and views, including through lawful permits to peacefully demonstrate, without fear of harassment or detention (Canada);
- 139.86 Ensure access to formal justice for women and girls from low-income households (Denmark);
- 139.87 Continue promoting sustainable economic and social development in order to provide solid foundations for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 139.88 Intensify efforts to protect the rights of children and women, including in the education and health sectors (Croatia);
- 139.89 Continue implementing its national programmes and policies to improve the education and health systems for the special vulnerabilities of women, children and persons with disabilities (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 139.90 Include as a priority in future national climate action plans the human rights to drinking water and sanitation (Spain);
- 139.91 Continue efforts aimed at supporting families in the wake of disaster to create a system for the immediate supply of basic necessities and medication, in case of emergencies (Afghanistan);
- 139.92 Revise its building codes to increase resilience in light of more frequent and intense weather systems resulting from climate change and to safeguard its commitment to the human rights to adequate housing, sanitation, and clean water (Bahamas);

- 139.93 **Strengthen social protection systems to ensure that families and children affected by climate change would receive sufficient and adequate support (Bulgaria);**
- 139.94 **Continue the efforts to ensure the well-being of women, children and persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of plans to address natural disasters and emergency situations (Cuba);**
- 139.95 **Continue safeguarding basic human rights and freedoms, with due consideration for the special vulnerabilities of women, children and persons with disabilities, in climate and disaster-induced migration through the efficient legislative and policy framework (India);**
- 139.96 **Continue its efforts to strengthen the social protection system to ensure that people who are directly affected by climate change would receive sufficient support (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 139.97 **Pursue efforts to support victims of natural disasters (Iraq);**
- 139.98 **Ensure the economic empowerment of women who are relocated due to climate change through the provision of the necessary support and assistance to continue their work (Maldives);**
- 139.99 **Involve social inclusion of affected communities and disadvantaged groups in natural context within society are taken into account (Marshall Islands);**
- 139.100 **Continue efforts to strengthen social protection systems for children and families to cope with disasters (Nepal);**
- 139.101 **Continue its efforts in ensuring social security programmes to strengthen the active participation of persons with disabilities in society (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 139.102 **Continue national efforts to reduce poverty through more support for protection programmes and social pension schemes (Qatar);**
- 139.103 **Continue working to achieve a zero level of poverty in the country (Russian Federation);**
- 139.104 **Scale up measures to provide assistance and support for economically marginalized families and conduct reforms to take children out of poverty (Saudi Arabia);**
- 139.105 **Continue strengthening the successful social programmes to combat poverty, in the areas of education, health and food, with particular attention to the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 139.106 **Implement poverty reduction strategies, especially in rural areas (Belarus);**
- 139.107 **Continue promoting social measures and protections aimed at the reduction of poverty levels (Dominican Republic);**
- 139.108 **Continue efforts to strengthen measures to provide adequate resources and assistance to economically disadvantaged families and undertake structural changes in order to address child poverty (Maldives);**
- 139.109 **Finalize and implement national legislation and policies on people's access to safe drinking water and sanitation, particularly on the outer islands (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 139.110 **Ensure sustainable safe water supplies and adequate sanitation for all (Malaysia);**
- 139.111 **Take measures to guarantee respect for the prohibition of the dismissal of pregnant women from the workplace and for the implementation of the right to paid maternity leave in all sectors of the economy (Uruguay);**

- 139.112 Review the minimum wage for workers who are under the poverty line, in order to enjoy a decent life (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 139.113 Continue to ensure improving medical health services in the country, including through further investments in the training of health-care professionals and strengthening of efforts to reduce under 5 and infant mortality rates (Sri Lanka);
- 139.114 Take further steps to ensure the accessibility and quality of health services (Belarus);
- 139.115 Continue giving priority to the right to health, and implement effective measures to continue broadening the access to and quality of the services (Cuba);
- 139.116 Expand ongoing efforts to provide medical facilities and access to them by vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, as part of overall efforts to achieve universal health coverage in Fiji (Malaysia);
- 139.117 Legalize voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape, incest, grave deformation of the foetus or risks to the health or life of the mother (Mexico);
- 139.118 Take steps to improve the quality of and ensure broad access to comprehensive sexuality education (New Zealand);
- 139.119 Revise the current family life education curriculum to comply with the revised International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, guarantee its implementation throughout the national school system and provide ongoing professional development for teachers to ensure that they are equipped to teach it (Iceland);
- 139.120 Increase access to education and transport services in remote areas (Saudi Arabia);
- 139.121 Strengthen measures to improve financial and social services incentives for teachers posted to schools in remote areas (Myanmar);
- 139.122 Continue its efforts to narrow the gap in the quality of education between urban and rural areas and strengthen the basic infrastructure of rural schools, such as access to water, electricity and communication (Myanmar);
- 139.123 Continue the efforts to promote the right to education (Tunisia);
- 139.124 Pay special attention to disparities between urban and rural areas in order to ensure that all children have access, on an equal footing, to quality services, particularly in the area of education (Algeria);
- 139.125 Increase schooling opportunities and strengthen the appropriate infrastructure of schools, including sanitation and hygiene, especially in areas affected by natural disasters (Belarus);
- 139.126 Ensure access to quality education for all, in particular for vulnerable children in rural areas or urban migration contexts, and address the high dropout rate, especially among girls (Holy See);
- 139.127 Continue its efforts to promote and provide equality education for all children (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 139.128 Continue its initiatives to increase scholarships and support for tertiary studies for the realization of the right to education for all Fijian children (Pakistan);
- 139.129 Intensify efforts to minimize barriers to learning and ensure that all segments of society can obtain education in an inclusive environment (Malaysia);

- 139.130 Accelerate current efforts towards ensuring disability-inclusive education and accessibility, within and around school grounds (Marshall Islands);
- 139.131 Continue its efforts to strengthen the understanding of the equality of women and men and ensure equal rights and opportunities for women in formal employment, eliminate occupational segregation and achieve substantive equality in the labour market (State of Palestine);
- 139.132 Continue its efforts in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, both in politics and national socioeconomic development (Thailand);
- 139.133 Continue working towards its vision of a society free of all forms of gender-based discrimination (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 139.134 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and girls (Brunei Darussalam);
- 139.135 Continue its efforts to empower women and girls, increasingly expanding their access to social services and economic opportunities (Guyana);
- 139.136 Develop and implement policies to increase opportunities for women in the formal employment sector in order to address the gender gap in labour force participation (Iceland);
- 139.137 Enhance the implementation of the plan on empowering women and girls, particularly by supporting women's participation in decision-making, and equitable rights to economic resources and financial services (Indonesia);
- 139.138 Continue to promote its development plans to further enhance the advancement of women (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 139.139 Continue to implement policies and programmes to increase opportunities for women in formal employment (Pakistan);
- 139.140 Further strengthen efforts, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, to ensure that the rights of women and children stipulated in the Constitution, laws and regulations are protected in their everyday lives (Japan);
- 139.141 Continue to strengthen policies and programmes to address discrimination and violence against women (Philippines);
- 139.142 Strengthen measures to protect victims of violence against women and girls, including through full implementation of relevant legislation, awareness-raising campaigns and the establishment of shelters for survivors with integrated counselling services (Rwanda);
- 139.143 Prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls through effective implementation of the relevant legislation on domestic violence and the National Gender Policy (Spain);
- 139.144 Continue its efforts to address violence against women and children, including measures to prevent violence and support survivors (Australia);
- 139.145 Develop and implement an inclusive national action plan for the prevention of sexual violence against women and girls, in line with Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Netherlands);
- 139.146 Advance public policies to combat violence against women and girls and take further steps to provide adequate training to law enforcement officials in charge of dealing with such cases (Brazil);
- 139.147 Prioritize comprehensive strengthening of its approach to combating violence against women and other vulnerable groups, including through legislative, institutional and community-based mechanisms (New Zealand);

- 139.148 **Strengthen the fight against violence against women by removing obstacles that prevent access to justice and the police, and to medical services (France);**
- 139.149 **Bolster efforts to combat violence against women and girls (Iraq);**
- 139.150 **Take all necessary steps to ensure the full and effective implementation of laws and policy frameworks intended to combat and prevent violence against women and girls (Ireland);**
- 139.151 **Continue efforts to guarantee gender equality and criminalize violence against women (Jordan);**
- 139.152 **Make full use of the new instruments put in place recently to combat violence against women (Israel);**
- 139.153 **Strengthen and fully implement legislation punishing domestic violence (Republic of Moldova);**
- 139.154 **Incorporate awareness-raising programmes regarding domestic violence and their access to justice in the human rights trainings courses of law enforcement officials, in order to prevent intimidation by police to resolve the crime in private (Myanmar);**
- 139.155 **Step up its efforts to combat domestic violence, including through awareness-raising campaigns (Timor-Leste);**
- 139.156 **Continue efforts to combat domestic violence (Tunisia);**
- 139.157 **Continue the fight against domestic violence against women (Albania);**
- 139.158 **Strengthen and fully implement legislation punishing domestic violence, and ensure that traditional apologies are under no circumstances accepted as a mitigating factor (Belgium);**
- 139.159 **Prevent women and girls from suffering discrimination, harassment and domestic and sexual violence, by allocating sufficient resources towards training for law enforcement and the judiciary in addressing cases related to violence against women and to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Canada);**
- 139.160 **Intensify the education and training campaigns for law enforcement officials and the administration of justice regarding gender and domestic violence so that victims can effectively access justice (Chile);**
- 139.161 **Further strengthen mechanisms at national level to prevent and protect all victims of domestic violence (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 139.162 **Strengthen legislation to prevent domestic violence and ensure adequate protection mechanisms and access for victims to seek justice (Malaysia);**
- 139.163 **Strengthen its efforts to protect children from all forms of violence, including by prohibiting corporal punishment of children (Republic of Korea);**
- 139.164 **Enforce the prohibition of child marriage, prohibit all forms of pressure on victims of rape to marry perpetrators and increase efforts to prosecute and punish perpetrators and accomplices in cases of child marriage (Belgium);**
- 139.165 **Repeal the right “to administer reasonable punishment” in the Juveniles Act 1974 and prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including in the home (Germany);**
- 139.166 **Continue efforts to protect children from all forms of violence and abuse (Jordan);**

- 139.167 Take appropriate measures to address the root causes of child labour, while strengthening the legal framework for its eradication, including in the informal and private sectors (Senegal);
- 139.168 Take further steps to eradicate child labour in the country (Timor-Leste);
- 139.169 Adopt measures to remove children from the worst forms of labour (Algeria);
- 139.170 Step up efforts for the effective access of children with disabilities to health, education and social services, as well as their full inclusion in society (Montenegro);
- 139.171 Take further measures to ensure the rights of children with disabilities, and to facilitate their effective access to health, education and social services, and their full integration into society (Qatar);
- 139.172 Continue to strengthen the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, while giving special attention to women and girls with disabilities and the discrimination that they face (Republic of Korea);
- 139.173 Take the necessary public education measures to remove any remaining stigma and barriers against the full inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, in Fijian life and society (Singapore);
- 139.174 Continue its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to education, health and social services, and to facilitate their full inclusion in society (State of Palestine);
- 139.175 Continue to implement policies and measures of inclusivity, especially with regard to persons with disabilities (Angola);
- 139.176 Intensify efforts to implement the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular children, have access to social services and their full inclusion in society (Botswana);
- 139.177 Launch a public information campaign to overcome social stigma and encourage the competent authorities, teachers and parents to promote the right to education of children with disabilities (Bulgaria);
- 139.178 Establish comprehensive support programmes to guarantee access to education and health services, as well as participation in the labour market and public life of persons with disabilities (Costa Rica);
- 139.179 Continue strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with its national plan (Ecuador);
- 139.180 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Egypt);
- 139.181 Promote equal opportunities and non-discrimination for people living with a disability and those living with albinism, particularly in the areas of education, employment and social protection (Gabon);
- 139.182 Develop an action plan to ensure accessibility for children with disabilities to essential health-care services and educational institutions in rural areas and the outer islands (Seychelles);
- 139.183 Accelerate efforts to put in motion the implementation plan adopted in 2019 to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Israel);
- 139.184 Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against persons with albinism, including in accessing and maintaining work, education, social benefits and adequate health services, which respond to their specific needs (Portugal);

- 139.185 **Combat discrimination against persons with albinism (Iraq);**
- 139.186 **Take measures to implement the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders at the national level, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland);**
- 139.187 **Ensure that human rights defenders can freely carry out their legitimate activities (Albania).**
140. **The following recommendations will be examined by Fiji, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council.**
- 140.1 **Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression, and review its national legislation in order to ensure full alignment with the Rome Statute (Liechtenstein);**
- 140.2 **Ratify the optional protocols to the core human rights instruments that the State has acceded to (Ukraine);**
- 140.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol and Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Armenia);**
- 140.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Germany);**
- 140.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Slovenia);**
- 140.6 **Step up its efforts for the prevention of torture, particularly by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);**
- 140.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**
- 140.8 **Adopt a definition of torture in line with the international legal framework as well as ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mexico);**
- 140.9 **Ratify all Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in order to improve the implementation of the rights of the child in all settings (Croatia);**
- 140.10 **Ratify the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child signed by Fiji in 2005, and consider becoming a party to the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Seychelles);**
- 140.11 **Withdraw signatory reservations to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);**
- 140.12 **Consider the withdrawal of its reservations to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, particularly relating to the definition of torture (Armenia);**
- 140.13 **Withdraw its reservation to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New Zealand);**
- 140.14 **Withdraw all its reservations to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and intensify its efforts to prevent torture in all settings (Germany);**
- 140.15 **Withdraw the reservations to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy);**

- 140.16 **Withdraw all reservations to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Liechtenstein);**
- 140.17 **Consider the ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**
- 140.18 **Ratify and implement the ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 140.19 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education, as recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Serbia);**
- 140.20 **Ensure that national legislation does not grant immunity to those responsible for serious human rights violations (Costa Rica);**
- 140.21 **Consider developing through stakeholder dialogue a national human rights action plan (Sri Lanka);**
- 140.22 **Join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (Liechtenstein);**
- 140.23 **Enact and implement a holistic anti-discrimination and equality law, which includes, inter alia, provisions to comprehensively address the multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Portugal);**
- 140.24 **Adopt comprehensive anti-racism and ethnic discrimination legislation, including a national action plan, and determinate racial/ethnic motives as aggravating circumstances in criminal legislation (Serbia);**
- 140.25 **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination or equality act and put in place public awareness-raising campaigns, which will address the issue of discrimination and stigmatization against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Slovenia);**
- 140.26 **Enact holistic anti-discrimination and equality legislation to comprehensively address the social discrimination faced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Iceland);**
- 140.27 **Take more decisive action in adapting legislation, including prosecution and adequate punishment of the perpetrators of discrimination, hate speech and violence against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women (Montenegro);**
- 140.28 **Legislate to address hate crimes against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Germany);**
- 140.29 **Develop a national strategy on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, in collaboration with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, to guide its work in eliminating multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Iceland);**
- 140.30 **Take specific measures, including strengthening the legal framework, to eliminate discrimination, hate speech and violence against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, including by prosecuting and adequately punishing perpetrators, and adopt awareness-raising measures to address stigma within society (Liechtenstein);**
- 140.31 **Draft and implement an action plan to eradicate violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);**
- 140.32 **Consider conducting a national dialogue on climate change, bringing together all stakeholders and the public to outline priorities to mobilize**

domestic and global partners and align resources according to the country's most urgent needs (Marshall Islands);

140.33 Ensure implementation of recommendations from the visit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish acts of trafficking (Botswana);

140.34 Continue its efforts to guarantee the exhaustive investigation and prosecution of the authors of trafficking in persons and take all necessary steps to guarantee the effective application of the National Action Plan for the Eradication of Human Trafficking (Honduras);

140.35 Adopt concrete measures to ensure that trade unions and human rights defenders are able to carry out their work, guaranteeing their freedom of expression, association and assembly and freedom of the press (Spain);

140.36 Repeal all laws and policies that unlawfully restrict fundamental rights of freedom of expression, assembly and association, including sections of the Public Order (Amendment) Act, the Media Industry Development Decree, the Electoral Act 2014 and the Online Safety Act (Netherlands);

140.37 Review decrees limiting freedom of expression and association, particularly the Media Industry Development Decree, the Essential National Industries (Employment) Decree and the Public Order (Amendment) Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

140.38 Take measures to permit lawful labour, political and social protests, and to safeguard activists' and human rights defenders' rights to speak and peacefully assemble freely, without harassment, and unimpeded by inappropriately applied administrative impediments (United States of America);

140.39 Take the necessary measures in order to revise the law on the development of the media (Albania);

140.40 Review legislation that affects freedom of speech, particularly the Crimes Act, the Media Industry Development Decree and the Public Order (Amendment) Act, to bring them into compliance with Fiji's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);

140.41 Enhance measures aimed at protecting and promoting freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, including by removing any legal obstacle to the exercise of these rights (Brazil);

140.42 Amend the Media Industry Development Decree, the Public Order (Amendment) Act and the sedition provisions of the Crimes Act, which restrict freedom of expression, the press and assembly (Denmark);

140.43 Guarantee freedom of expression and opinion and freedom of the press, by ensuring respect for the rights of journalists and human rights defenders and reviewing the Media Industry Development Decree 2010, which punishes any journalistic publication against the general interest or public order, in order to avoid abusive interpretations (France);

140.44 Bring legislation on freedom of expression, assembly and association into line with international human rights standards, in particular, by repealing the Media Industry Development Decree 2010 (Germany);

140.45 Increase public funds to guarantee, in the case of natural disasters, the right to food, health and water and sanitation, as well as the construction of shelters that take into account the particular needs of women (Paraguay);

140.46 Consider introducing a universal basic income in order to better combat poverty and reduce inequalities, and improve the existing social protection system (Haiti);

140.47 Strengthen temporary special measures so as to reduce the gender gap and systematically address the concerns and rights of women in the public and private spheres (Togo);

140.48 Consider taking temporary measures, including the introduction of a minimum quota of at least 30 per cent of women candidates on the electoral lists of political parties, and facilitate the selection and training of women candidates for public office, in particular at the decision-making level (Bulgaria);

140.49 Raise to 18 years the age of criminal responsibility and combat all forms of violence against children, including child labour and sexual exploitation (Italy);

140.50 Take urgent steps to eliminate commercial sexual exploitation of children by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, activating the Inter-Agency Working Group on People Trafficking, and ensuring that the Inter-Agency Trafficking Task Force meets regularly and facilitates the implementation of the National Plan of Action to Eliminate Trafficking in Persons and Child Trafficking (Canada);

140.51 Finalize the adoption of the national plan of action to combat all manifestations of sexual exploitation of children and provide adequate human and financial resources for its implementation (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

140.52 Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and make the necessary legal modifications so that children cannot be sentenced to life imprisonment (Paraguay);

140.53 Bring the juvenile justice system fully into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child by raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally accepted level (Ukraine);

140.54 Guarantee access to the participation and representation of ethnic minorities in the different instances of public and private life (Ecuador);

140.55 Enrich the Immigration Act by incorporating special provisions for the protection of refugees and asylum-seeking children, and introduce a provision on family reunification into the Act (Afghanistan).

141. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Fiji was headed by H.E. Honourable Chief Justice, Mr. Kamal Kumar, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative;
 - Mr. Christopher Pryde, Director of Public Prosecutions;
 - Brigadier-General Mr. Sitiveni T. Qiliho, Commissioner of Police;
 - Mr. Shahin Ali, Director of Legal Aid Commission;
 - Ms. Selai Korovusere, Director Women;
 - Mr. Anare Leweniqila, Deputy Permanent Representative;
 - Mr. Vueti K. May, First Secretary;
 - Ms. Robyn-Ann Elizabeth Mani, Second Secretary;
 - Ms. Seema Chand, Principal Legal Officer;
 - Ms. Ofa Solimailagi, Principal Legal Officer;
 - Ms. Suliana Taukei, Legal Officer;
 - Mr. Luke Wilson, Intern.
-