

Universal Periodical Review of Fiji  
29 October 2014

Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of Fiji to the UPR's 20th session. We thank Fiji for their work in preparing the report and also for the additional information provided in the opening speech.

Estonia notes with appreciation that since the last UPR session, Fiji has taken several steps to implement the previous recommendations. First, we would like to congratulate Fiji on the peaceful elections held on September 17th and on the high turnout, including among young people and women, many of whom were voting for the first time. The successful elections demonstrate thus, that Fiji has taken some key steps on the path to democracy. However, the Constitution-making process was not fully open and all-inclusive and, according to the UN treaty bodies' conclusions, the Constitution still has some deficiencies in fully complying with international standards.

Secondly, we positively note from the national report, that the Government of Fiji is committed to enforcing internationally recognized media standards. Although official media censorship has ended, human rights defenders, journalists and trade union leaders continue to face restrictions in their exercise of these freedoms. With this regard we would like to urge abolishing the decrees that restrict media freedoms and ending the intimidation and harassment of those that express criticism of the State.

Thirdly, we encourage Fiji to better engage women in all society-building processes and increase efforts to end violence against women by sending a strong public message of zero tolerance.

Estonia encourages Fiji to continue efforts to become part of all the main international human rights instruments and cooperate with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, including by issuing the standing invitation.

Estonia would like to make the following **recommendations** to the Government of Fiji:

- to fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC (International Criminal Court) and to ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC).
- To ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the two optional protocols (ICCPR-OP1/OP2);
- to ratify the **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)** and the optional protocol (OP-CAT)
- to establish a **Constitutional Commission** to conduct a comprehensive review of the 2013 Constitution and carry out national consultations to ensure that the Constitution is reflective of the will of all people.

Thank you!