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**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Fiji  
(October, 29<sup>th</sup> 2014)**

Thank you, Mister President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Fiji and thank them for their presentation and report.

Italy welcomes the recent political developments in Fiji and the peaceful conduct of the elections on September this year. We encourage the Country to continue steadily in this process, so to swiftly return to a normal democratic life. In particular, Italy **recommends** that Fiji adopt effective measures to ensure freedom of expression and the protection of journalists, as well as of opposition and critics of the Government.

We believe that the adoption of the new Constitution last year is an important step to uphold the rule of law and ensure the protection of human rights. It also remains crucial that Fiji ratifies the outstanding international human rights instruments, and we appreciate the Government's commitment to do so within a timeframe of ten years. Italy **recommends** Fiji to ratify, in particular, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture.

We welcome the efforts undertaken by the Government of Fiji to strengthen women's rights and we commend the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the adoption of the Fiji National Gender Policy. We encourage the Fijian Authorities to devote a special attention to combating both entrenched stereotypical attitudes against women and violence against women, and to recognize the role of women in society. Italy **recommends** to give effective implementation to the Fiji National Gender Policy and the Women's Plan of Action for 2010–2019, and to renew efforts in fighting all cases of discrimination and violence against women.

I thank you, Mr. President

Simona Bartoloni