

Statement by Portugal

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Fiji and expresses its thanks for the presentation of the national UPR report on the situation of human rights in the country.

Portugal welcomes the fact that since its last review the Republic of Fiji has promulgated a new Constitution and recommends that the Government of Fiji take the necessary measures to ensure freedom of expression and opinion, as well as freedom of association and assembly, in accordance with the international human rights standards.

Portugal underlines the important role played by the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council in ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights and would like to recommend that the Republic of Fiji extends a Standing Invitation to these Special Procedures.

Portugal notes that the participation of women in the new Parliament is of 16% and that it includes the Speaker of the Parliament. Portugal therefore encourages the Republic of Fiji to enhance the participation of women in political and public affairs and would like to ask the Delegation if it can provide further information on measures aiming at ensuring equality between man and women in law and practice. We also recommend that the Republic of Fiji ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

We also recommend that the Republic of Fiji adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution on Women Peace and Security (1325).

We recommend that the Republic of Fiji consider developing Human Rights Indicators as suggested by the OHCHR as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies.

Finally, Portugal recommends the Republic of Fiji to accede to the international treaties on human rights and to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political and its Optional Protocols; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and, finally, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Thank you Mr. President.