

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP
SESSION ON FIJI ON 29 OCTOBER 2014**

[Speaking time: 2mins]

Mr President,

Singapore welcomes the successful holding of Fiji's general elections on 17 September 2014. We hope that the outcome of the election will ensure long-term political stability in the country and enable the Government to continue to focus on policies to improve the well being of the people.

To promote human rights, there must be good governance and respect for the rule of law. In this regard, we take positive note of the Government's efforts to strengthen the domestic legal framework to through the passage of legislation such as the Bill of Rights. We also take positive note of the Government's efforts in setting up offices of the Legal Aid Commission in different parts of the country to promote access to justice by all Fijians including those from the underprivileged communities. Singapore **recommends** that Fiji, in cooperation with relevant international organisation, continues to enhance the rule of law to ensure a safe and stable living environment for the people.

A sizeable workforce with the requisite skills is necessary to support the country's development. In this regard, we take positive note of the Government's plans to enhance the education system and to ensure that more young Fijians could receive tertiary education. For children from poorer families, the Government has also implemented the Tertiary Education Loan Scheme and granted scholarships to help them meet the costs. Singapore **recommends** that Fiji continues to improve its education system and ensure access to quality education for all.

As a fellow Small Island Development State, Singapore joins the many friends of Fiji in wishing it success in implementing its policies to promote and protect human rights.