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**Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review 20th
Session
(27 October to 7 November 2014)
2nd Review of Fiji**

**STATEMENT BY Mrs. FAYE MOSE CHARGÉ de AFFAIRES, PERMANENT
MISSION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA**

29th October 2014

Check against delivery

Thank you Mr. President,

Solomon Islands warmly welcome the Honourable Minister and his Delegation to the 20th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council and the presentation of their National Report for the 2nd Review.

As a close Pacific neighbour, we congratulate Fiji for the successful outcome on their national elections held on 17th September 2014, resulting in the election of 8 female Members of Parliament (MPs) and the appointment of a first female Speaker of Parliament. We encourage the involvement of the MPs in the follow up process and implementation of the accepted recommendations in the 2nd Review. We also welcome Fiji's reinstatement as a full member of the Commonwealth on 26 September 2014.

We commend Fiji in the measures taken since the last review to improve the human rights situation in the country, in particular, on the launch in 2014 of the Fiji National Gender Policy to promote gender equality, social justice and sustainable development. In 2011, a Housing Policy was adopted and the Fiji National Provident Fund to provide housing assistance to citizens wishing to build homes. The Government has taken steps to increase resources on education in the 2014 budget.

The National Report indicated that Government is receptive towards the recommendation to invite the Special Rapporteur on the independence of lawyers and judges

In this connection, Solomon Islands makes the following recommendations:

- **To facilitate a visit of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers prior to the 3rd review of Fiji under the UPR.**
- **To strengthen existing mechanisms in the current ~~political~~, social and economic structures of the Fijian society to safeguard the rights of ethnic minorities.**

Thank you Mr. Chairman