



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

**STATEMENT BY Mr. Noah Patrick KOUBACK, Counselor to the Embassy of Vanuatu to the EU  
29 October 2014**

**Thank you Mr. President**

Vanuatu welcomes the Fiji Delegation headed by Honorable Minister of Justice Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum to the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council and the presentation of the National Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review of Fiji.

Vanuatu wishes to note Fiji recent elections held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, and appreciate its return to democracy. Also congratulate Fiji for its reinstatement as a full member back to the Commonwealth family following the Decision of CMAG on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

My delegation note that Fiji had follow up on the recommendations received in the previous cycle including in the area of alleviation of poverty and adequate standard of living of all Fijians and devised effective strategies including targeted social protection programmes and services such as Poverty Benefit Schemes, Food Vouchers programs to name a few.

Vanuatu notes that Fiji has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol on 2 June 2010. These are yet to be ratified.

Vanuatu notes that the Government of Fiji is receptive and currently giving consideration to extending an invitation to Special Rapporteurs to visit and assist with human rights reforms.

Vanuatu wishes to make the following three recommendations:

- ***To take further steps in view of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible within the 10 years' timeframe.***
- ***Prior to the next cycle of the UPR for Fiji, to take further steps in the consideration of extending an invitation to Special rapporteurs.***
- ***To continue to seek technical assistance from the international community in the implementation of the accepted recommendations in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycles of Fiji's UPR.***

Finally, as one of our fellow Melanesian neighbor, we welcome the opportunity to continue our discussion with Fiji on these important issues.

Thank you Mr. President.