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Universal Periodic Review – 20th Cycle - Fiji

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Brazil welcomes the Fijian delegation to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and congratulates the country for the comprehensive report presented.

Brazil is pleased to learn that Fiji has complied with important recommendations stemming from the first UPR cycle. In this sense, we congratulate the country on successfully carrying out general elections last month. We believe this is a milestone in the redemocratization process of Fiji.

While recognizing the important challenges that still lay ahead, Brazil notes with appreciation the increase in women's participation in the country's political process. Brazil commends Fiji for the appointment of two women for ministerial positions, as well as two others for Minister Assistant seats.

Nonetheless, the country can step up its efforts towards the realization of human rights. In particular, Brazil is concerned with the limits to freedom of opinion and expression in Fiji, where the media still faces legal constraints. We understand that freedom of opinion and expression is a fundamental element in the consolidation of Fiji's democracy. Thus, we recommend that Fiji take all necessary measures to guarantee that its citizens, particularly journalists, enjoy full freedom of opinion and expression.

Another area that deserves further attention is poverty eradication. A considerable percentage of the Fijian population, particularly in rural areas, is still living below the poverty line. Hence, Brazil recommends that Fiji intensify its efforts to fight against poverty, including through international cooperation and the implementation of lessons learned from international successful experiences.