



Questions from Fiji to the Maldives for the second UPR of the Maldives, 6 May 2015

The Republic of Fiji welcomes the opportunity to participate in the UPR of the Maldives, which faces many similar challenges relating not only to human rights in a context of democratic transition, and legislative enactment to meet Constitutional obligations in line with human rights obligations, but also in the context of extraneous factors in particular climate change.

1. Fiji congratulates the Maldives for removing the restriction on women running for national Presidency and other political offices through the Political Party Act 2013, but notes that the most recent elections did not reflect an increased level of participation by women. **Fiji therefore recommends to the Maldives to promote leadership of women by urgently enacting the pending Gender Equality Bill, and ensuring its early implementation.**
2. The Maldives has taken a leading role in raising awareness of the challenges posed by climate change, including by taking on the Chairmanship of the Alliance of Small Island States. We note that the impacts of increasingly severe and frequent disasters caused by climate change have had a strong negative impact on access to clean and safe drinking water, and on the right to a clean environment. **In this context, Fiji recommends to the Maldives to update and enact the pending Disaster Management Bill with a view to realising these basic rights.**