

**Universal Periodic Review 23rd Session**

**3rd of November 2015, Geneva.**

**Statement on behalf of Fiji for the review of Nauru, delivered by Namita Khatri, Deputy Permanent Representative.**

Thank you Ms. Vice-President,

Fiji would like to welcome the Minister Adeang, Minister Scotty, and the delegation of Nauru, and thanks them for the presentation of its national report for the 2nd Cycle of the UPR.

Fiji notes that Nauru signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Australia to implement a third-country processing regime under which asylum seekers’ claims to Australia can be processed in Nauru. Fiji believes that this bilateral policy should be implemented in compliance with Nauru’s international obligations and the right treatment of asylum seekers must be ensured. In this regard, Fiji acknowledges recent notice from the Nauruan government aiming at expanding the opening of centre arrangements for the regional processing centre to allow for freedom of movement within Nauru 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

However, Fiji deprecates other restrictions on the right of asylum seekers in Nauru, including their right to use internet to communicate, their right to be protected from (sexual) assaults and their rights to freedom of assembly, movement and expression.

1. Accordingly, Fiji recommends that the Government of Nauru take measures to implement and guarantee international human rights for asylum seekers, and in particular the right of women and girls who are seeking asylum to be protected from gender based violence.

Ms. Vice-President,

Fiji notes that, in the 1st UPR Cycle, Nauru accepted four recommendations relevant to climate change and human rights, including developing the human rights-based climate change adaptation strategy. Fiji recognises the severe impact of climate change on social and economic rights and in particular to safe drinking water, housing, food and access to sources of livelihood, as their land becomes uninhabitable. Hence, we welcome the adoption of the Republic of Nauru Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. Fiji shares with Nauru the experiences which demonstrate that climate change has a negative impact on economic and social rights.

1. Fiji recommends that Nauru should incorporate in its Framework a plan to undertake vulnerability assessments and to institute a plan for relocation of Nauruans living in vulnerable or high risk zones to safer and habitable locations.

I thank you Ms. Vice-President.