



**Universal Periodic Review 24<sup>th</sup> Session  
25<sup>th</sup> of January 2016, Geneva.**

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

Fiji welcomes its Pacific brothers and sisters from Solomon Islands to Geneva and to this UPR Working Group, and thanks the Solomon's delegation led by the Honourable Minister Milner Tozaka for its national report and for its constructive engagement in this UPR process. As a fellow Pacific Small Island Developing State, Fiji understands the difficulties faced by archipelagic states in ensuring that legislation and policies of government can be implemented across the country, particularly when such affect long-held attitudes and behaviour defended as culturally appropriate.

1. Fiji notes that the Solomon Islands is a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that significant steps have been taken through the Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission to review criminal laws which at present permit the corporal punishment of children in school and homes.
  - (i) Fiji recommends that the Solomon Islands provide a Constitutional and legislative protection for children against all forms of violence at home and at school.
  - (ii) Fiji also recommends that legislative protection for children include criminal sanctions for all forms of violence against children.
2. Fiji commends the Solomon Islands for passing the Family Protection Act 2014, and for taking significant steps to implement its provisions in relation to sexual abuse and domestic violence. Fiji notes, that like many Pacific Island countries, a barrier to its

effective implementation is traditional attitudes in the police force and the judiciary, which encourage reconciliation under pressure and without measures put in place to protect against further violence.

- (i) Fiji recommends that more budgetary allocation be given to the training of police officers and the judiciary to ensure that women have equal and substantive access to justice under the Act.