



Universal Periodic Review 25th Session
Tuesday 3 May 2016, Geneva.

Statement on behalf of Fiji for the review of Samoa, delivered by H. E. Nazhat Shameem Khan, Permanent Representative.

Thank you Mr. President,

Fiji would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Samoa, head by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufofo, and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its national report for the 2nd Cycle of the UPR. Bula Vinaka and Talofa from the Fiji Mission in Geneva.

Fiji notes that the Komesina o Sulufaiga (Ombudsman) Act 1988 has been repealed and replaced by the Ombudsman (Komesina o Sulufaiga) Act 2013, which expands the mandate of the Office so that it is now responsible, inter alia for the promotion and protection of human rights, thus becoming the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. Fiji commends this important transition and looks forward to engagement with the Samoan Human Rights Institution in the future. In particular, Fiji looks forward to sharing discussions with Samoa on matters of mutual concern, such as climate change and human rights, the development of social and economic rights of all persons in disaster prone countries, and the challenges in the development of the concept of substantive equality and democracy in a small island developing nation.

Fiji also notes that Samoa has passed a Family Safety Act in 2013, designed to deal effectively with domestic violence. In this regard, Fiji recommends:

1. that positive steps be taken to implement the Act amongst law enforcement agencies and,
2. that Samoa conducts gender competence and domestic violence law training of its law enforcement agencies including the police,

prosecutions office and judiciary to ensure that the Act is enforced effectively;

3. Fiji also recommends that the Family Safety Act be amended to provide anonymity and protection for those who make complaints of family violence under the Act.

I thank you Mr. President.