**44th Session o the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**(6 – 17 November 2023)**

**UPR of Tuvalu**

Wednesday 8 November 2023, 14:30 – 18:00

Speaking time: 2 minutes

Thank you Mr./Madam President/vice President.

Fiji welcomes the delegation of Tuvalu and congratulates the delegation for the achievements in the implementation of the recommendations from its previous cycle.

As a fellow Pacific Small Island Developing State, Fiji understands the unique human rights challenges arising from the devastating impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and commends the Government’s efforts in strengthening its policy frameworks that address climate change, disaster risk reduction, displacement and cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including through its Climate Change policy. Fiji also commends Tuvalu for its steadfast commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights of all its people.

On the issue of treaty ratification and as a core state of the Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI), Fiji stands ready to offer Tuvalu relevant technical assistance from CTI, towards the accession to the Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

It is in this spirit of constructive engagement that Fiji offers the following recommendations:

1. Accede to the Convention against Torture (UNCAT);
2. Continue to strengthen efforts to provide and improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health services and information;
3. Enhance support services for victims of gender-based violence and take measures to raise awareness among law enforcement officials, lawyers, judges social workers, and health-care professionals of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and children who are victims of gender-based violence; and
4. Continue to ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of persons in marginalized groups and in vulnerable situations when developing and implementing policies and programmes addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction.

We wish the delegation a successful review.

Thank you

**270 words**