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**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic
Review***

Fiji

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-eighth session from 20 to 31 January 2025. The review of Fiji was held at the 5th meeting, on 22 January 2025. The delegation of Fiji was headed by the Attorney General, Graham Leung. At its 10th meeting, held on 24 January 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on Fiji.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Fiji: China, Côte d'Ivoire and Romania.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Fiji:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Canada, members of the core group of sponsors of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica, Maldives and Slovenia), Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Fiji through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Fiji stated that during the last universal periodic review, Fiji had received 242 recommendations of which it had supported 207. It was emphasized that those recommendations had provided valuable guidance and had served as a catalyst for significant reforms in such areas as gender equality, climate justice and the protection of vulnerable populations.

6. The delegation welcomed the opportunity to present its national report for the universal periodic review, which reflected the progress made since 2019.

7. The head of the delegation reaffirmed the steadfast commitment of Fiji to advancing and protecting the principles and values of human rights while cultivating a norm of a responsible human rights culture.

8. The delegation stressed that Fiji had taken positive steps towards implementing previous recommendations. By 2019, all nine core human rights treaties and conventions had been ratified and Fiji had taken steps to strengthen its legislative and institutional frameworks to ensure compliance with international law and best practices.

9. The Human Rights Task Force had been established and served as the country's national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up. The task force had been instrumental in preparing the national report for the universal periodic review. Additionally, the task force had prioritized the submission of outstanding reports, particularly the combined

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/48/FJI/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/48/FJI/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/48/FJI/3](#).

reports for the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

10. Fiji stated that, in 2015, the country had issued a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders to assist in realizing the rights guaranteed under its Constitution. Since then, several special rapporteurs and independent experts had visited the country – for instance, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, in 2018, and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, in 2019.

11. As in many other countries, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had posed challenges and had required Fiji to prioritize its national needs. Nevertheless, Fiji had remained committed to constructive engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and would respond to requests from special procedures on the basis of the Government's areas of priority and Cabinet's approval.

12. Significant strides had been made in recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. With its Climate Change Act 2021 and National Disaster Risk Management Act 2024, Fiji had integrated gender equality, disability inclusion and sustainable development.

13. Numerous policies, such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2018–2039, aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, had been developed. Thanks to such policies, the mandate for disaster legislation had covered not only natural hazards but also biological, environmental and geological hazards.

14. Innovative initiatives, such as nature-based seawalls and community-based disaster risk management programmes, had further highlighted the dedication of Fiji to climate resilience.

15. The delegation highlighted steps taken to address discrimination at the structural level, whether in education or in access to institutions for justice. Under the Constitution, the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission had had an expanded mandate to investigate and take steps to secure appropriate redress in case of human rights violations.

16. As for education, Fiji had remained committed to providing equitable opportunities for all its citizens. The Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Service had ensured the provision of scholarships solely on the basis of merit, irrespective of gender, race, religion or gender identity.

17. Fiji had remained committed to dismantling systemic discrimination in order to allow every Fijian to realize their full potential. The merit-based recruitment and selection process within the Fijian Civil Service had provided all Fijians an equal opportunity for employment.

18. The delegation indicated that Fiji was aware of the significant challenges in reducing sexual and gender-based violence. To address this, Fiji had launched the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls 2023–2028, which was a milestone for the country, as Fiji had become the first Pacific Island country, alongside Australia, to develop an inclusive and evidence-based plan to eliminate gender-based violence. Specifically, the initiative focused on prevention by means of education and systemic reforms, while emphasizing collaboration with civil society, community leaders and international partners.

19. The Fiji Police Force operated a “no-drop” policy to ensure that all cases of gender-based violence were handled with a zero-tolerance approach. The national gender-based violence guidelines had enabled healthcare professionals to provide appropriate care and support to survivors.

20. Progress had been made in empowering women economically through programmes such as the National Women's Expo, which had provided a platform for women to thrive as leaders and entrepreneurs.

21. Fiji recognized the importance of freedom of expression, assembly and association. The repeal of the Media Industry Development Act in 2023 had been a landmark step, allowing journalists to report independently without fear of prosecution. This step had

significantly improved the ranking of Fiji on the World Press Freedom Index, going from eighty-ninth to forty-fourth place.

22. The approach to public gatherings had also been reformed under the Public Order Act 2014. Although permits were still required, the process had become more transparent and inclusive. In 2023, 1,126 permits had been approved, reflecting the commitment of Fiji to facilitating peaceful assemblies.

23. While guaranteeing those freedoms, Fiji had remained vigilant with regard to incitement to violence, hate speech and discrimination.

24. Notable progress had been made in addressing crimes such as human trafficking, modern slavery and child labour.

25. The accession of Fiji to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, had marked a pivotal step in aligning its national efforts with international standards.

26. The Constitution and the Crimes Act 2009 contained specific provisions to address human trafficking and underscored a zero-tolerance stance towards those crimes.

27. In collaboration with key stakeholders, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration had developed a national referral mechanism and standard operating procedures which had provided a structured framework to ensure support for victims of trafficking.

28. In 2021, a significant step had been taken in launching the National Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy and its accompanying national action plan, laying out a comprehensive road map for combating trafficking and focusing on protection and prevention.

29. In its effort to build capacity, continuous training had been conducted for law enforcement officers. Additionally, as a participating member of the Bali Process, Fiji had continued to receive assistance, including training materials and manuals to strengthen the capacity of its law enforcement and civil society organizations.

30. The delegation stated that Fiji had faced unprecedented challenges in recent years, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which had triggered the largest economic crisis in over a century. The effects of the crisis had been felt in various sectors across Fiji and had required swift adaptation.

31. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Fiji had navigated through the challenges, such as the disruption of supply chains, job losses and a pressing need to support vulnerable communities, which had reinforced the necessity of strengthening the legal system and the economic infrastructure.

32. In terms of healthcare, a comprehensive COVID-19 preparedness and response plan in line with World Health Organization guidelines had been prepared and included a stimulus package to address health and socioeconomic needs. Efforts had been made to roll out a nationwide free vaccination campaign targeting vulnerable groups.

33. Despite disruptions to general health services, essential programmes such as immunization for newborns and maternal health services had been uninterrupted. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Pacific Community had ensured the delivery of critical medical supplies and the provision of psychosocial support.

34. Innovative solutions tailored to Fijian circumstances had been implemented in the education sector. In particular, televised lessons and printed worksheets for remote areas had ensured equitable access to education. Support from development partners had enhanced outreach to vulnerable children.

35. The delegation recognized that Fiji had continued to face significant challenges in meeting its implementation and treaty body reporting obligations. Human and financial resource constraints, climate change, extreme weather events, election cycles and changes in government had all had an impact to some degree on the ability of Fiji to deliver timely reports.

36. Fiji was addressing those challenges through comprehensive policies and a collective commitment across the whole Government.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

37. During the interactive dialogue, 76 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

38. Bulgaria welcomed the National Action Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment 2024–2029, and the Child Justice Bill 2024 and Child Care and Protection Bill 2024.

39. Cabo Verde congratulated Fiji on progress made in human rights since the last universal periodic review cycle, particularly in the administration of justice.

40. Australia made recommendations.

41. Chile congratulated Fiji on abolishing the death penalty and ratifying two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

42. China praised the improved living standards in Fiji, increased resources for education, health and social security, the strengthened judiciary, and efforts to combat torture and human trafficking.

43. Costa Rica welcomed the continued progress in strengthening the administration of justice, including reducing the backlog of cases and improving legal aid services.

44. Cuba recognized actions taken by Fiji to mitigate and adapt to climate change, whose adverse impact had chiefly affected small island developing States.

45. Colombia thanked the delegation of Fiji for presenting its report and wished it every success.

46. Cyprus praised the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls and the ratification of two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

47. Denmark welcomed efforts to improve freedom of expression and advance women's and girls' rights, but noted the continued need to address challenges in this regard.

48. The Dominican Republic congratulated Fiji on policies to reduce climate change impacts on human rights, and on risk prevention and management plans to protect the population, particularly in coastal areas.

49. Egypt took note of the efforts made by Fiji to implement the accepted recommendations from the third universal periodic review.

50. Estonia commended progress made by Fiji regarding women's rights, the child protection system, and protecting media freedom and freedom of expression and of association.

51. Eswatini commended Fiji on ratifying the core international human rights instruments, as part of its efforts to implement recommendations received during the third universal periodic review.

52. Gabon commended Fiji for implementing gender- and disability-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, and for the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

53. The Gambia commended Fiji for ratifying the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and for repealing the Media Industry Development Act.

54. Georgia welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, efforts to combat trafficking in persons, strengthen the administration of justice and uphold the rule of law, and the national mechanism for monitoring, implementation and follow-up.

55. Germany welcomed the repeal of the Media Industry Development Act, while encouraging continuing efforts to ensure freedom of expression and of the press. It also welcomed the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls.

56. Guyana commended Fiji for ratifying the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, for repealing the Media Industry Development Act and for comprehensive actions on human rights and climate change.

57. The Holy See made recommendations.

58. Iceland made recommendations.

59. India welcomed the steps taken in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. It also noted the National Disaster Risk Management Act and the Community-based Disaster Risk Management training programme.

60. Indonesia valued the commitment of Fiji to advancing women's economic empowerment and preventing violence against all women and girls through the adoption of national action plans.

61. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Fiji for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as for making efforts to enhance transparency in the judicial system and combat corruption. It also noted the integration of climate change considerations into planning and policymaking.

62. Iraq welcomed the steps taken to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, and the accession of Fiji to international human rights instruments.

63. Ireland welcomed efforts to tackle violence against women and girls, and to address the human rights impacts of climate change.

64. Israel welcomed the repeal of the Media Industry Development Act, efforts in the field of disaster risk reduction, and efforts to make advancements in gender equality and the protection of women and children.

65. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. It also appreciated the efforts in reducing restrictions to freedom of the press.

66. The delegation of Fiji welcomed the constructive dialogue, which was characterized by a spirit of cordiality.

67. Regarding the national human rights institution, the delegation stressed that the Government was working diligently to regain its "A" status accreditation. One of the issues had been the appointment process for the commissioners of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, which was embedded in the Constitution.

68. Nevertheless, Fiji had been working towards strengthening the independence of the Commission and facilitating the appointments process, which would serve as the basis for graduating to "A" status accreditation.

69. The budget of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission had steadily increased, but the delegation recognized that this body needed to have more resources at its disposal.

70. With regard to climate change, the country's National Climate Change Coordination Committee had been engaged in the planning, mitigation and adaptation efforts needed to address the multiple challenges accompanying climate change. For instance, laws relating to planned relocation and financial mechanisms for relocating communities affected by climate change were in place and a minister working solely on climate change and environmental issues had recently been sworn into office.

71. Fiji had also adopted an inclusive and rights-based approach to tackling climate change, incorporating such elements as gender equality and social inclusion in its cyclone and disaster programmes.

72. As regards employment, Fiji had put in place strong legislative provisions and policies on discrimination in the workplace, particularly addressing gender, race, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

73. Employment grievances on the basis of discrimination could be dealt with by the mediation services within the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations or at the Employment Relations Tribunal.

74. Policies and collaboration with various stakeholders had enabled the Government to take steps with a view to promoting equality and ensuring that child labour was addressed.

75. While the Constitution guaranteed freedom from slavery, servitude, forced labour and trafficking, the Crimes Act contained various provisions concerning specific offences, including trafficking in persons, particularly children.

76. On the question of accession to Optional Protocols, the delegation indicated that given resource and capacity limitations, Fiji would defer the ratification of Optional Protocols to prioritize and complete its work on the outstanding reports.

77. Fiji took on board the constructive recommendations in that regard and expressed confidence in meeting its obligations as a responsible member of the international community.

78. With respect to its national reconciliation efforts, Parliament had passed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act. The delegation stated that the legislation was soon to be operationalized. After emerging from 16 years of difficult authoritarian rule, Fiji expected that the Commission would add value in terms of bringing harmony to the country.

79. Japan welcomed the repeal of the Media Industry Development Act of 2010, the implementation of the enhanced public service delivery platform, the REACH programme and the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls.

80. Jordan welcomed efforts to prepare the national report, which reflected achievements in the field of human rights since the previous universal periodic review.

81. Kuwait commended the efforts by Fiji to meet its international human rights obligations.

82. Lebanon welcomed efforts to protect children from violence, and to implement recommendations of human rights mechanisms, especially its obligations to combat torture, and thanked Fiji for its contribution to peacekeeping operations, including the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

83. Libya appreciated the interaction of Fiji with the universal periodic review mechanism and made recommendations.

84. Malawi thanked Fiji for the comprehensive presentation and wished it all the best in the review.

85. Malaysia commended gender-inclusive strategies integrating women into climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts, as well as the investments made by Fiji in human rights training for law enforcement officers and civil servants.

86. Maldives welcomed efforts to combat climate change, particularly the adoption of the Climate Change Act, the National Oceans Policy and the National Climate Finance Strategy and the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
87. The Marshall Islands commended Fiji for its strong efforts in addressing the adverse effects of climate change, particularly the incorporation of gender equality, disability and social inclusion considerations in the Climate Change Act.
88. Mauritius welcomed progress achieved since the last universal periodic review, as well as the efforts related to resource mobilization and coordination among agencies to ensure continuous enjoyment of basic human rights of Fijians affected by climate change.
89. Mexico acknowledged efforts to integrate a gender, disability and inclusion approach in measures to address climate change and in the comprehensive disaster risk management.
90. Mongolia praised advancements by Fiji in promoting climate awareness and protecting vulnerable groups, such as women and children, and its commitment to improving the legal framework to protect women's rights.
91. Montenegro commended the development of climate adaptation programmes with a human rights-based approach, and programmes related to child labour and exploitation, and encouraged Fiji to reduce dropout rates and raise awareness about education, especially among vulnerable groups.
92. Mozambique thanked Fiji for its comprehensive presentation and made recommendations.
93. Namibia commended the commitment of Fiji to honouring its reporting obligations by prioritizing the submission of its outstanding reports to the human rights treaty bodies.
94. Nepal appreciated efforts aimed at engaging with human rights mechanisms, implementing recommendations from the previous cycle, adopting the Climate Change Act and realizing the right to a fair minimum wage.
95. The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomed the steps taken by Fiji to implement recommendations from the previous cycle, particularly the repeal in 2023 of the Media Industry Development Act of 2010.
96. Oman commended Fiji on its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review and welcomed the efforts at the national level to address climate change.
97. New Zealand commended the steps taken by Fiji to strengthen media freedom, especially repealing the Media Industry Development Act, and welcomed the efforts of Fiji to combat climate change.
98. Paraguay welcomed the accession by Fiji to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
99. The Philippines acknowledged the domestic frameworks set up in Fiji to combat climate change and recognized efforts to protect groups in vulnerable situations and advance social justice.
100. Portugal commended the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and welcomed plans to prevent violence against women and girls and promote their economic empowerment.
101. The Russian Federation underscored the increase in cases involving violations by law enforcement officers, which ran counter to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
102. Samoa, as a fellow Pacific small island developing State, commended Fiji on its disaster risk reduction adaptation and mitigation initiatives, and efforts in addressing climate change displacement.
103. Senegal commended Fiji for the measures taken in strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights, including the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

104. Sierra Leone commended Fiji on its bold strides to advance human rights, including media freedom, and to strengthen disaster resilience to ensure human rights protection.

105. Singapore welcomed the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls and the National Action Plan for Women's Economic Empowerment.

106. The delegation acknowledged the need to redouble its efforts in promoting and protecting human rights. As this was a journey, Fiji would need the support of the international community, development partners and the United Nations, while assuming primary responsibility for the implementation of all relevant international human rights obligations.

107. The Electoral Act and the Political Parties Act had been undergoing rigorous review. The delegation recognized that some aspects of both laws were antidemocratic in spirit and operations. Nevertheless, the delegation expressed hope that, following the completion of the review, the concerns raised by some delegates would be addressed.

108. Another three pieces of legislation had been drafted and were expected to be taken to Parliament: the Information Bill, a Code of Conduct Bill and a Bill for the Accountability and Transparency Commission. These measures would widen democratic participation in the Government and hold it to higher standards of accountability.

109. As regards women's rights in employment, Fiji was at an advanced stage of finalizing amendments to the Employment Relations Act. Issues such as gender parity and wages in employment would be addressed under that legislation.

110. Fiji had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and had put in place a robust legal framework to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including rights to equality and freedom.

111. The national employment policy included quotas as well as tax incentives encouraging the hiring of individuals with disabilities.

112. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection had been administering programmes to assist persons with disabilities, vulnerable children and older persons. This included a disability allowance and a transport assistance scheme to support persons with disabilities.

113. The country's empowerment and participation policies had actively involved women, children and persons with disabilities in the planning and development of community-based disaster risk reduction management and climate change adaptation.

114. As for the Employment Relations Act, Fiji had set the minimum employment age at 15 years and regulated working conditions for children. Moreover, the country had defined and prohibited the worst forms of child labour.

115. The Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations had conducted training for key stakeholders, including workers' organizations, employers' groups and civil society, to familiarize them with child labour laws and equip them to identify and address child labour.

116. The Constitution of Fiji provided for the right to free education and mandated the State to use all measures within its means to advance that right. Accordingly, strides had been made through several programmes and initiatives to ensure that right.

117. For instance, the Free Education Grant and the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Service had been providing transport assistance to students from low-income households and targeting children from rural and maritime areas. Additionally, free textbooks had been provided to all students. More recently, thanks to the menstrual hygiene management programme, sanitary pad vouchers had been distributed to female students aged from 7 to 13 years.

118. Regarding the issue of disability in education, the Fiji National Education Summit had been convened in September 2023, with the participation of the Government and relevant stakeholders.

119. The summit had resulted in the adoption of a declaration launched by the Ministry of Education along with a three-year strategic plan. In line with the declaration, the Government had developed an inclusive education policy to guide programmes and initiatives with a view to ensuring inclusiveness for students with disabilities.

120. Progress had been made on several policies addressing corporal punishment. For example, the Child Policy and the Behavioural Management Policy had provided for the reasonable administration of punishment consistent with the Constitution and legislation. Moreover, it had also provided for a zero-tolerance policy towards the administration of corporal punishment.

121. The Ministry of Education had been implementing reforms to improve the quality of education by ensuring the relevance, inclusiveness and adaptability of the curriculum to the needs of all students, including those in rural, remote and maritime areas. Financial assistance had also been provided to improve school infrastructure, especially in remote and rural areas. Those policies reflected the commitment of Fiji to realizing the right to education.

122. The delegation stressed that Fiji had abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 2015 by amending its military law and had revised its Penal Code and the Crimes Decree to eliminate references to the death penalty.

123. Slovenia commended the delegation of Fiji on its report and presentation and on its commitment to the universal periodic review process.

124. South Africa commended the strides made by Fiji, which had included accession to the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the launch of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls.

125. Spain congratulated Fiji on the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on its establishment of a national action plan against gender-based violence.

126. Sri Lanka welcomed the ratification by Fiji of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and noted positively the various social protection programmes under way, and welcomed the proposed visit to Fiji of the Special Representative on the right to development, in 2025.

127. Switzerland welcomed the progress achieved by Fiji and made recommendations.

128. Thailand welcomed measures taken within the Fiji Corrections Service to observe the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), particularly by improving facilities for female prisoners, and the launch of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls.

129. Timor-Leste welcomed the enactment of legislative and policy frameworks that addressed the interconnection between climate change, disaster resilience and human rights.

130. Togo congratulated Fiji on its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

131. Trinidad and Tobago, speaking as a fellow small island developing State affected by global crises, acknowledged the key actions taken by Fiji to promote and protect human rights, to build climate resilience and disaster risk reduction and to eliminate violence against women and girls.

132. Türkiye commended the continued improvement in human rights in Fiji and the commitment it had demonstrated to advancing such efforts, as reflected by its engagement with the universal periodic review.

133. Ukraine commended the efforts of Fiji in developing policies and legislation to address climate change and in strengthening the national framework of human rights protection.

134. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland commended the repeal by Fiji of the Media Industry Development Act and the improved situation of independent journalism, and urged increased efforts to combat domestic violence and child abuse.

135. Uruguay thanked Fiji for its efforts, including its ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) and of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

136. Vanuatu welcomed the strong legislative and policy framework of Fiji for building strong and resilient communities, ensuring that all Fijians continued to enjoy basic human rights and freedoms.

137. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the Human Rights Task Force and highlighted the work of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission with State institutions to promote, protect and ensure the enjoyment of human rights.

138. Viet Nam commended the progress made by Fiji in human rights, including the Climate Change Act 2021, the National Adaptation Registry and proactive measures to protect vulnerable groups.

139. Armenia applauded Fiji for ratifying key human rights instruments, welcomed the ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) and commended efforts to integrate human rights norms into legislation.

140. Canada commended Fiji for its commitment to implementing recommendations from previous reviews, which included the adoption of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

141. The Bahamas applauded Fiji for repealing the Media Industry Development Act, for advancing disaster preparedness through the Climate Change Act 2021 and for using a rights-based relocation approach.

142. Bhutan commended Fiji for its efforts to strengthen the administration of justice, to uphold the rule of law and to improve legal aid services.

143. Brazil commended the efforts made by Fiji against violence against women and girls through its implementation of the national action plan for 2023–2028, and applauded the repeal of the Media Industry Development Act.

144. The delegation stated that Fiji would welcome the visit and the comments of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, as part of its commitment to continuing to engage with special procedures.

145. Regarding cyberbullying, Fiji had passed the Online Safety Commission Act and was committed to reviewing its legislation to ensure that the Online Safety Commissioner was able to take action against those who overextended themselves regarding the enjoyment of freedom of expression.

146. Fiji would continue to prioritize access to justice for its citizens. The delegation emphasized that Fiji had struggled with delays in civil procedure.

147. The Legal Aid Commission, with a large complement of lawyers, was fully operational. Across Fiji, an archipelago of 300 islands, there were 23 legal aid offices, with eight located in rural areas and 15 in urban centres.

148. Following the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, procedures such as providing legal counsel to every suspect and recording interviews with detained and arrested individuals had been introduced at police stations.

149. With regard to human rights defenders and civil society organizations, the country's Bill of Rights contained robust provisions guaranteeing every person the right to freedom of speech, expression, thought, opinion and publication, to name just a few. Fiji recognized the

independence and the contribution of such actors, as they were part of national task forces and committees chaired by the Government.

150. Through its standing committees, Parliament had been actively engaging with civil society by means of consultation processes on various matters.

151. Along with the climate change initiatives, the National Disaster Awareness Week had facilitated public engagement in promoting resilience, including through the launch of the Family Safety mobile app for households.

152. Fiji had been actively involved in various campaigns to address gender-based violence. For example, under the Duavata Community Policing Initiative, symposiums and radio talks had been organized to raise awareness of that issue.

153. Regarding LGBTQ rights, the Bill of Rights set out progressive provisions ensuring that every person had a right to equal protection and treatment. In the area of education, significant progress had been made in ensuring safety and reporting, thanks to the Child Protection Policy. The Employment Relations Act had aligned with constitutional provisions and fundamental rights, such as non-discrimination, in relation to sex, and gender identity and expression.

154. The delegation extended its profound appreciation to every member State and organization that had contributed to its universal periodic review process.

155. The delegation stated that the recommendations had the capacity to strengthen the country's human rights journey in achieving progress and promoting equality and justice for all Fijians.

156. The delegation thanked its development partners, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Small States Office of the Commonwealth Secretariat, for their support in helping Fiji prepare for the universal periodic review.

157. Fiji reiterated its commitment to the universal periodic review process and international human rights treaties, emphasizing that its obligations were not merely a formality but a reflection of its dedication to the principles of equity and justice.

158. The delegation called upon its development partners to continue their support through resources and technical assistance to help Fiji implement the recommendations.

159. The delegation emphasized that Fiji remained open to engaging with international partners in advancing a shared commitment to human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

160. The following recommendations will be examined by Fiji, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:

160.1 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Senegal);

160.2 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and withdraw reservations to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in particular those relating to the definition of torture (Costa Rica);

160.3 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and enact legislation that guarantees the full implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Gambia);

- 160.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Estonia) (Germany) (Portugal) (Switzerland);**
- 160.5 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus) (Malawi) (Sierra Leone) (Togo) (Ukraine);**
- 160.6 **Accede to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Colombia);**
- 160.7 **Proceed to ratify the First and Second Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);**
- 160.8 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile) (Estonia) (Iceland) (Switzerland);**
- 160.9 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Mongolia);**
- 160.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany) (Iceland) (Switzerland);**
- 160.11 **Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Maldives);**
- 160.12 **Proceed with the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Togo);**
- 160.13 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Colombia) (Cyprus) (Ireland) (Malawi) (Namibia) (Ukraine);**
- 160.14 **Continue to advance the rights of women, including by considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Marshall Islands);**
- 160.15 **Consider ratifying the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Mauritius);**
- 160.16 **Accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);**
- 160.17 **Accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Colombia) (Ukraine);**
- 160.18 **Continue to engage with and improve cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies (Japan);**
- 160.19 **Further strengthen its engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Mongolia);**
- 160.20 **Pursue technical cooperation opportunities, including with OHCHR, to bolster efforts in fulfilling human rights treaty body reporting obligations (Trinidad and Tobago);**
- 160.21 **Expedite visits by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the independence of judges and lawyers, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and on the situation of human rights defenders (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

- 160.22 Ensure an open and merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 160.23 Expedite the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and ensure the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources for its effective implementation (Türkiye);
- 160.24 Continue strengthening the mandate, independence and pluralism of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission of Fiji to ensure that the Commission achieves “A” status accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (Bulgaria);
- 160.25 Strengthen the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission with a view to regaining full accreditation under the Paris Principles (Australia);
- 160.26 Bolster efforts to align the statute of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission with the Paris Principles, ensuring its independence and financing (Chile);
- 160.27 Take further steps aimed at achieving “A” accreditation status for the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission (Georgia);
- 160.28 Continue strengthening the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission to ensure its full compliance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- 160.29 Strengthen its national human rights institution to enhance its capacity to monitor and promote human rights across the country, and ensure its full compliance with the Paris Principles (Mozambique);
- 160.30 Take necessary measures to ensure that the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission aligns with the Paris Principles and promote adequate resource allocation to the Commission (Thailand);
- 160.31 Undertake the necessary review of its laws concerning the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);
- 160.32 Ensure that the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission is fully compliant with the Paris Principles by providing it with adequate resources and safeguarding its independence to effectively carry out its mandate (Armenia);
- 160.33 Support the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission in order to continue the promotion, protection and enjoyment of the human rights of its people, including the right to development (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 160.34 Strengthen the national mechanism to follow up on the recommendations of the universal human rights system, which includes ongoing consultation with civil society (Uruguay);
- 160.35 Consolidate and optimize the Fiji Human Rights Task Force as the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);
- 160.36 Strengthen the Fiji Human Rights Task Force by providing it with the necessary inputs and means to carry out its functions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 160.37 Accelerate efforts to fulfil reporting obligations under human rights treaties (Cyprus);
- 160.38 Consider adopting legislation and implementing a strategy to combat all forms of discrimination (Uruguay);

- 160.39 Proceed to adopt comprehensive legislation and an effective strategy to combat all forms of discrimination (Togo);
- 160.40 Adopt and implement anti-discrimination legislation and/or strategies regarding gender and race (Guyana);
- 160.41 Consider adopting and implementing an anti-discrimination strategy and legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sex, race and disability (Bahamas);
- 160.42 Adopt effective measures to combat such unacceptable phenomena as hate speech, threats and cases of bullying on the Internet (Russian Federation);
- 160.43 Intensify efforts to adopt more effective anti-discrimination strategies and enact legislation prohibiting all forms of discrimination against women and girls (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 160.44 Adopt and implement anti-discrimination and gender equality legislation (Israel);
- 160.45 Enhance protection of vulnerable and at-risk groups (Guyana);
- 160.46 Combat discrimination while further promoting reconciliation efforts among the entire population (Holy See);
- 160.47 Continue efforts to raise awareness of and educate people on human rights, especially among law enforcement agencies (Libya);
- 160.48 Adopt legislation to guarantee full compliance with obligations under the Convention against Torture (Russian Federation);
- 160.49 Ensure the elimination and prohibition of torture and other related punishments by law enforcement personnel (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 160.50 Take effective measures to address the problem of overcrowding in penitentiary institutions, and take measures to improve the facilities of the penitentiary system (Russian Federation);
- 160.51 Continue reforms in law enforcement and enhance its accountability (Slovenia);
- 160.52 Continue in the efforts to strengthen the administration of justice and upholding of the rule of law (Malawi);
- 160.53 Increase the number of prosecutors and judges, and provide training to fairly process pretrials, in order to decrease the percentage of pretrial detainees held in prison without due process (Canada);
- 160.54 Bring the juvenile justice system fully into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child by raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally accepted level (Ukraine);
- 160.55 Safeguard the right to freedoms of expression, assembly and association by repealing restrictive provisions of the Crimes Act and the Public Order Act that can be misused to suppress criticism of the Government by the media, civil society, journalists, activists, political opponents and other human rights defenders (Costa Rica);
- 160.56 Repeal legislation that restricts freedoms of expression, the press and assembly, including the Public Order Act of 1969, the Electoral Amendment Act of 2022 and the sedition provisions of the Crimes Act (Denmark);
- 160.57 Guarantee freedom of expression, media freedom and freedom of peaceful assembly, inter alia by abolishing the Public Order Act, the Electoral (Amendment) Bill and parts of the Crimes Act which enforce the practice of limiting civic space and freedom of peaceful assembly (Germany);

- 160.58 Amend legal provisions restricting freedom of expression, including but not limited to the Crimes Act and the Public Order (Amendment) Act, to bring them into line with international law (Switzerland);
- 160.59 Implement measures to protect and promote freedom of expression, as well as the rights to peaceful assembly, association, and freedom of the press (Dominican Republic);
- 160.60 Take the necessary measures to guarantee freedom of expression and of the press, and promote a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and other civil society actors (Spain);
- 160.61 Promote freedom of expression by protecting the right to hold opinions without interference (Canada);
- 160.62 Protect journalists so that they can carry out their work and express opinions freely (Dominican Republic);
- 160.63 Enhance efforts aimed at protecting and strengthening media freedom (Lebanon);
- 160.64 Conduct impartial, thorough and independent investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation against civil society members, human rights defenders and journalists to ensure a safe and enabling environment for their work (Ireland);
- 160.65 Amend the Public Order (Amendment) Act to remove restrictions around freedom of assembly, in accordance with international human rights standards (New Zealand);
- 160.66 Repeal laws and policies unlawfully restricting freedom of association and assembly, and amend the Public Order (Amendment) Act to ensure compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Brazil);
- 160.67 Continue to promote the social values of the role of the family, and provide the necessary support to it as the basic unit for building society (Egypt);
- 160.68 Eradicate child, early and forced marriage (Iceland);
- 160.69 Align the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys to 18, without setting exceptions (South Africa);
- 160.70 Strengthen efforts to eliminate slavery, trafficking, prostitution and child labour, especially of girls (Cabo Verde);
- 160.71 Enhance action to eliminate child slavery, trafficking, prostitution and child labour (Cyprus);
- 160.72 Implement measures to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, who are exploited and forced into sexual and/or labour activities in rural and tourist areas (Dominican Republic);
- 160.73 Take effective measures to ensure that thorough investigations and prosecutions are carried out for persons who engage in the use, procuring or offering of children for prostitution, and that sufficient, effective and dissuasive sanctions are imposed (Eswatini);
- 160.74 Continue its efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, in particular by conducting investigations and criminally prosecuting perpetrators of such acts (Gabon);
- 160.75 Enhance actions to eliminate child labour and trafficking in persons (Guyana);
- 160.76 Fully investigate and prosecute all cases of human trafficking and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Montenegro);
- 160.77 Continue efforts aimed at combating human trafficking (Senegal);

160.78 Take further necessary steps to combat trafficking in persons, including through addressing existing legislative gaps hindering the prosecution of trafficking (Sri Lanka);

160.79 Continue to implement mandatory and targeted education and training programmes for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to effectively handle human trafficking cases in line with international human rights standards (Philippines);

160.80 Strengthen the capacities of the law enforcement and related institutions for the effective prevention of human trafficking and the prosecution of offenders (Türkiye);

160.81 Continue efforts to combat youth unemployment through training programmes (India);

160.82 Prioritize initiatives aimed at combating youth unemployment, in particular of women, through job preparation and training programmes (Gabon);

160.83 Ensure just working conditions for all and investigate any alleged violations of the rights of workers (Holy See);

160.84 Protect workers from human rights abuses in the workplace, including addressing allegations of exploitation and strengthening measures to ensure safe and secure working environments for all workers (Australia);

160.85 Implement the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) in domestic laws and policies (Denmark);

160.86 Expand the social protection programmes to cover all groups of people, without discrimination, particularly the most vulnerable ones (Indonesia);

160.87 Strengthen complementary national social security programmes to create a more inclusive social protection framework, particularly for those most in need (Islamic Republic of Iran);

160.88 Continue its efforts to put in place adequate social protection policy measures and make appropriate budget allocations to support children in vulnerable situations in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 4 (Mauritius);

160.89 Redouble efforts to expand the social protection programmes for wider inclusion (Nepal);

160.90 Continue to implement comprehensive policies that address existing gaps in social assistance programmes (Oman);

160.91 Continue increasing inputs to the social security sector to protect the rights to life, health, and development for vulnerable groups (China);

160.92 Improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation for informal settlements, rural communities and remote islands by expanding infrastructure, increasing public investment and supporting community-led programmes (Costa Rica);

160.93 Continue strengthening measures to improve access to drinking water, and social protection, and to reduce inequalities (Cuba);

160.94 Consider the implementation of urban infrastructure and basic services, such as electricity, water and sanitation, in peri-urban areas and informal settlements, for a better quality of life for their inhabitants (Dominican Republic);

160.95 Continue to improve access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities, and expand their scope to include rural areas (Oman);

- 160.96 Strengthen infrastructure and policies to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation, particularly for rural and remote informal settlements and communities (Bahamas);
- 160.97 Improve access to basic social services to people living in deprived or rural communities (Sierra Leone);
- 160.98 Expand efforts to raise public awareness of social and economic rights and ensure effective remedies for vulnerable groups, with a focus on improving education and vocational training (Jordan);
- 160.99 Continue improving national health systems, including equitable access to medical services in rural and remote areas, while developing policies to ensure the comprehensiveness of health services (Kuwait);
- 160.100 Give priority to the right to health and implement effective measures to broaden access to effective and quality health services (Eswatini);
- 160.101 Continue efforts towards better access to quality healthcare, including maternal and reproductive health services (India);
- 160.102 Increase access to comprehensive health services, especially in rural areas and remote islands, by expanding healthcare infrastructure and training health personnel, including sexual and reproductive health policies, and integrating maternal health services into primary care (Mexico);
- 160.103 Strengthen accessible and equitable healthcare systems, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations (Viet Nam);
- 160.104 Prioritize investments in public healthcare infrastructure, personnel, equipment and medicines, in an effort to broaden access to quality healthcare services, including psychosocial healthcare services (Bahamas);
- 160.105 Continue to make investments in public health to enhance the overall access and quality of healthcare through targeted training and capacity development of healthcare workers (Bhutan);
- 160.106 Guarantee the right to health and health services for all, including for transgender persons (Iceland);
- 160.107 Strengthen measures to develop a proactive, responsive and enabling mental health system (Bhutan);
- 160.108 Accelerate the finalization of its national health plan, which also takes into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities and the strengthening of healthcare for persons living in remote areas of the country (Cabo Verde);
- 160.109 Continue prioritizing the right to health by addressing climate-related socioeconomic challenges, strengthening infrastructure, and improving access to health services, especially for persons in vulnerable situations who are more exposed to the risks of climate-induced health impacts (Thailand);
- 160.110 Guarantee access to maternal healthcare, family planning and sexual and reproductive health services, without discrimination (Portugal);
- 160.111 Continue to raise awareness to combat victimization of and discrimination against persons living with HIV and AIDS (South Africa);
- 160.112 Decriminalize abortion and repeal sections 235 and 236 of the Crimes Act (Iceland);
- 160.113 Enshrine the right to education in national legislation, ensuring the right to inclusive education for children with disabilities, children, girls and women living in rural and remote areas of the country (Cabo Verde);
- 160.114 Enshrine the right to education in national law and guarantee at least nine years of compulsory primary and secondary education for all students (Gambia);

160.115 Enshrine in national legislation the right to education and guarantee at least 12 years of free primary and secondary education with at least nine compulsory years (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

160.116 Continue efforts to end discrimination in education and to enshrine the right to education in national legislation (Iraq);

160.117 Implement specific measures to address the causes that contribute to declining secondary school completion rates, such as poverty, early marriage and gender disparities, while expanding initiatives that promote equitable access to quality education (Costa Rica);

160.118 Take further steps to guarantee inclusive access to education for all children and eliminate school dropout, including in rural areas (Indonesia);

160.119 Provide full attention to the education sector, by combating the dropping out of children and providing all means for improving completion rates, while keeping in mind that girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are particularly affected by such trends (Lebanon);

160.120 Take additional measures to promote and protect the right to education for all children, especially those in rural areas (Marshall Islands);

160.121 Continue implementing government policies, programmes and initiatives to promote universal access to education for children, paying further attention to prevent school dropout particularly in rural areas through appropriate interventions (Sri Lanka);

160.122 Reinforce efforts to improve declining completion rates in education (Timor-Leste);

160.123 Continue national efforts to ensure access to education, with a particular focus on children from rural areas, women and girls (Bhutan);

160.124 Take measures to adapt infrastructure, organize training of teachers and provide assistive technologies that will contribute to the creation of an inclusive education system for children with disabilities (Bulgaria);

160.125 Continue promoting a sustainable economic system, which is responsible towards the environment and able to maintain the well-being of its population (Cuba);

160.126 Take all necessary steps to ensure full and effective implementation of the Climate Change Act by ensuring that the most vulnerable persons, such as women, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities, are meaningfully engaged in its implementation (Estonia);

160.127 Investigate and prosecute the purported violations of human rights and illegal activity that damages the environment related to mining and extractive industries (Holy See);

160.128 Strengthen national programmes to address the impacts of climate change, with particular attention to vulnerable local communities, by increasing resources allocated for disaster mitigation and climate adaptation (Jordan);

160.129 Continue its leading role in showcasing and fighting all negative impacts on human rights, of environmental challenges, and especially climate change (Lebanon);

160.130 Continue efforts to combat the adverse effects of climate change and ensure an inclusive approach to climate change adaptation measures (Marshall Islands);

160.131 Continue efforts to combat climate change with appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures (Nepal);

160.132 Strengthen environmental conservation efforts, including biodiversity and habitat protection, waste management, and preserving cultural heritage (Samoa);

160.133 Continue its progressive strategies to ensure an inclusive, systematic and strategic approach to climate adaptation and building disaster resilience, such as building sea walls and relocating communities threatened by rising sea levels (Vanuatu);

160.134 Promote the work of the National Climate Change Coordination Committee, in order to facilitate coordination and the mobilization of resources to strengthen the application of mitigation and adaptation measures, which they consider relevant (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

160.135 Expand climate resilience programmes to better safeguard vulnerable communities and ecosystems (Viet Nam);

160.136 Strengthen local resilience by empowering communities with knowledge and skills to effectively coordinate and manage disaster risks, ensuring the protection of human rights in the face of the negative impacts of climate change (Brazil);

160.137 Integrate the right to development into national planning and policies (Islamic Republic of Iran);

160.138 Continue efforts to support those affected by natural disasters (Iraq);

160.139 Redouble efforts to address the effects of the climate emergency and natural disasters, and to meet the needs of and provide timely services to the most vulnerable populations, in line with recommendations from the previous cycle (Paraguay);

160.140 Enhance international cooperation to further raise its capacity to deal with climate change and natural disasters (China);

160.141 Strengthen cooperation with its development partners in elevating measures to combat illicit drugs and drug abuse as well as establishing rehabilitation centres for drug addicts (Indonesia);

160.142 Continue to strengthen national legal frameworks for the protection and promotion of women's rights and to promote equality between men and women (Egypt);

160.143 Continue in strengthening comprehensive efforts aimed at protecting the rights of women and children and ensuring their safe and full participation in society (Israel);

160.144 Further strengthen initiatives and measures to ensure the rights of women and girls (Japan);

160.145 Continue efforts to increase the participation of women in decision-making bodies (Nepal);

160.146 Strengthen measures to ensure women's participation in politics, including efforts to address violence against women and to create a safer environment for women in political spaces (Timor-Leste);

160.147 Continue efforts to promote gender equality, including by developing a policy to ensure equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value and increasing women's participation in leadership and decision-making at all levels (Malaysia);

160.148 Intensify efforts to address violence against women in politics, to ensure their full and effective participation without fear of violence and/or intimidation (Namibia);

160.149 Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and enhance support for women entrepreneurs (Singapore);

- 160.150 Continue to take progressive measures to promote the rights of women and girls in all spheres towards achieving gender equality (Sri Lanka);
- 160.151 Continue to strengthen its implementation of legislation and policies relating to the protection of women and girls (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 160.152 Continue efforts to combat gender-based discrimination (India);
- 160.153 Take effective measures to further eliminate discrimination against women, continue combating crimes such as human trafficking, and safeguard the rights of women and children (China);
- 160.154 Ensure the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, especially in regard to increasing the political representation of women in official State positions and protecting all women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence (Germany);
- 160.155 Implement fully the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls (Australia);
- 160.156 Redouble efforts to implement the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls, including the allocation of more financial, human and technical resources (Colombia);
- 160.157 Strengthen efforts under the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls by addressing the high number of cases of violence reported and ensuring effective legal protections (Gambia);
- 160.158 Allocate additional resources to fully operationalize the national action plan for the prevention of violence against women and girls and strengthen the capacity of the coordination and implementation office (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 160.159 Intensify efforts to address gender-based violence, including by ensuring the comprehensive implementation of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls 2023–2028 and guaranteeing access to support services for all victims, irrespective of their abilities (Armenia);
- 160.160 Fully implement its National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls by the next universal periodic review (Canada);
- 160.161 Enhance measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including domestic violence against women and girls (Estonia);
- 160.162 Strengthen existing legal frameworks to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and hold perpetrators to account (Iceland);
- 160.163 Step up efforts to combat violence against women and girls (Iraq);
- 160.164 Strengthen the prevention and combating of gender-based violence by eliminating traditional reconciliation practices like *bulubulu* and removing its consideration as a mitigating factor in judicial proceedings (Mexico);
- 160.165 Continue its efforts in addressing all forms of violence against women and girls, including gender-based and domestic violence (Mongolia);
- 160.166 Adopt measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (Slovenia);
- 160.167 Adopt and implement laws to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence, while allocating sufficient resources to ensure effective support services for victims and the prevention of such violence (Switzerland);
- 160.168 Take measures to combat hate speech against women in society and the media (Chile);
- 160.169 Enhance support services for gender-based violence survivors (Iceland);

160.170 Further strengthen the enforcement of laws protecting women and girls from gender-based violence and increase support services for victims and survivors (Philippines);

160.171 Adopt a law prohibiting any corporal punishment of women (Russian Federation);

160.172 Provide institutionalized training on violence against women and girls to law enforcement officials and the judiciary to ensure that survivors do not face further discrimination and harassment and that perpetrators of offences are brought to justice (Ireland);

160.173 Implement public policies, with adequate funding, for public awareness-raising campaigns in the area of violence against women and girls and domestic violence, including through specific training programmes for service providers dealing with victims of violence (Italy);

160.174 Ensure the full application of measures already adopted to prevent and combat gender-based violence, promoting awareness-raising campaigns and improving support services (Spain);

160.175 Strengthen education and training campaigns for law enforcement and justice officials on gender-based violence and domestic violence, so that victims can enjoy effective access to justice (Chile);

160.176 Enhance measures and create awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and respond to gender-based violence against women and girls, including sexual abuse, by addressing societal attitudes, establishing awareness-raising campaigns, improving support services and ensuring effective law enforcement (Portugal);

160.177 Adopt proactive measures to combat cyberbullying, especially hate speech directed to women and girls (Samoa);

160.178 Continue to implement measures aimed at promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights, including measures to combat gender-based violence (Mozambique);

160.179 Continue efforts to promote children's rights, including rapid adoption of the Child Care and Protection Act (Libya);

160.180 Strengthen protection mechanisms and fight against abuse and all forms of exploitation of children, including through the full implementation of the new Child Care and Protection Act as well as the Child Justice Act (Holy See);

160.181 Finalize the adoption of the Child Justice and Child Care and Protection Bills, aligning them with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two additional protocols, while promoting positive parenting and data collection on child abuse (Mexico);

160.182 Expedite the adoption of the law on child protection and care and the juvenile justice law, in line with recommendations from the previous cycle, and develop awareness-raising and education campaigns to promote positive parenting and strengthen data collection to measure child abuse and neglect (Paraguay);

160.183 Accelerate the enactment of the Child Justice Bill into law (Sierra Leone);

160.184 Develop a strategy to end child marriage by 2030 (Estonia);

160.185 Continue taking measures to eliminate all forms of abuse and violence against children (Italy);

160.186 Continue working to protect children's rights by strengthening child protection systems and expanding the scope of educational programmes that focus on children (Kuwait);

160.187 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro);

160.188 Continue to take comprehensive legal measures to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation and emerging digital threats (Oman);

160.189 Implement comprehensive awareness-raising and education campaigns to promote positive parenting (Estonia);

160.190 Continue its efforts to address violence against women and children, including through education and awareness programmes (New Zealand);

160.191 Continue to align its relevant policies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Georgia);

160.192 Ensure the full and proper implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, with the aim of removing all barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities in social life (Italy);

160.193 Review national laws, policies and legal frameworks to ensure alignment with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Namibia);

160.194 Continue efforts to empower persons with disabilities to ensure their full and active participation without discrimination in society (Cuba);

160.195 Continue to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure their full integration and participation in society (Egypt);

160.196 Continue its efforts to ensure the right to inclusive education for students with disabilities, particularly those in vulnerable situations (Maldives);

160.197 Ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities and improve their accessibility to schools and public infrastructure (Samoa);

160.198 Ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities (Cyprus);

160.199 Continue to develop measures to ensure inclusive education for children and students with disabilities, including those in rural and remote areas (South Africa);

160.200 Continue to implement policies and measures of inclusivity for persons with disabilities, especially for women and children (Singapore);

160.201 Intensify efforts to promote full and effective participation in society and access to justice, education, healthcare and basic services for persons with disabilities (Thailand);

160.202 Develop a comprehensive policy on sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions or sexual characteristics, with the aim of eradicating all forms of discrimination against persons of diverse sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions or sexual characteristics (Iceland);

160.203 Undertake efforts to ensure equality and non-discrimination for the LGBTI+ community, especially with regard to transgender persons (Chile);

160.204 Integrate gender and LGBTIQ+ inclusive measures into national laws and policies to eliminate discrimination and violence while ensuring that marginalized groups have access to essential services (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

160.205 Combat acts of discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons, ensuring that these are investigated and punished (Spain);

160.206 Consider adopting gender-inclusive legislative and policy frameworks to eliminate discrimination and violence against LGBTQI+ persons and ensure their equal opportunities (Thailand);

160.207 Consider establishing mechanisms ensuring the rights and welfare of migrant workers, in line with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);

160.208 Reinforce protective measures for migrant workers in accordance with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Türkiye);

160.209 Harmonize the Immigration Law with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 1951, including expanding the protection against refoulement (Uruguay).

161. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Fiji was headed by Mr. Graham LEUNG, Attorney General, and composed of the following members:

- H.E Mr. Luke Daunivalu, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations and Other International Organisations, Geneva;
 - Ms. Suliana Taukei, Principal Legal Officer, Office of the Attorney General;
 - Ms. Geraldine Naigulevu, Principal Legal Officer, Office of the Attorney General;
 - Mr. Shanil Dayal, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations and Other International Organisations, Geneva.
-