

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA**

**37TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**[*Federated States of Micronesia*]**

Fiji warmly welcomes the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia and congratulates the delegation for the achievements in the implementation of the recommendations from its previous cycle.

Fiji commends the Federated States of Micronesia for developing and implementing both the Nationwide Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy of June 2013 and the Strategic Development Plan 2004-2023, which both importantly recognise the need to protect the development of the people, resources and economy against the risks posed by climate change.

As a fellow Pacific Island Developing State, Fiji understands the challenges associated with implementing recommendations in the face of the increasingly adverse impacts of climate change and for this reason Fiji congratulates the Federated States of Micronesia for its commitment to adapting to, and mitigating the effects of, climate change.

Fiji offers the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that women, especially rural women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks;
2. Continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information; and
3. Accede to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

We recognize, as well as through our own experience, that domestic violence and the abuse of children within the family remained largely unreported as a result of social, cultural and institutional barriers. On this note, in strengthening efforts to protect the family against further violence, we make the final following recommendation:

1. Strengthen domestic violence legislation by criminalizing violence against women, and making the reporting of violence within the family and especially against women and children, mandatory.

We wish the delegation every success in its review.

Thank you.