

**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**

**[*Saint Lucia*]**

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

As a fellow Small Island Developing State, prone to disasters and at the forefront of the adverse impacts of climate change, Fiji recognises the importance of ensuring that climate change and disaster policies and strategies are anchored in the national development framework. In this regard, Fiji commends Saint Lucia for its National Adaptation Plan and Climate Change Adaptation Policy, which reinforces its commitment to addressing current and future climate risks in a cross-sectoral manner. Fiji also commends Saint Lucia for the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.

Fiji offers the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction frameworks;
2. Consider imposing a moratorium on executions and take positive steps to abolish the death penalty;
3. Ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
4. Strengthen the Health and Family Life education curriculum to comply with the revised International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, guarantee its implementation throughout the national school system and provide ongoing professional development for teachers to ensure that they are equipped to teach it, and
5. Continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information.

We wish the delegation every success in its review. I thank you.