

**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**

**[*Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe*]**

Fiji welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and congratulates the delegation for the achievements in the implementation of the recommendations from its previous cycle.

As a fellow Small Island Developing State, Fiji understands the human rights challenges arising with the increasingly adverse impacts of climate change.

Fiji commends Sao Tome and Principe’s resilience and commitment to progressive human rights development, including its efforts towards achieving gender equality and its reforms on juvenile justice. Fiji encourages Sao Tome and Principe to continue such efforts and offers the following recommendations:

1. Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks, that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and ensure full and meaningful participation of diverse groups including but not limited to women, children, persons with disabilities and minority groups and local communities in its implementation.
2. Continue to take positive steps to eliminate corporal punishment in all settings, especially against children.
3. Strengthen efforts to raise public awareness on the adverse human rights impacts of labour and sex trafficking and train government competent authorities on how to effectively reduce the incidence of labour and sex trafficking.
4. 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.