**43rd Session o the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**(1 – 12 May 2023)**

**UPR of the Kingdom of Tonga**

Monday 1 May 2023, 14:30 – 18:00

Speaking time: 2 minutes

Thank you Mr. President

Bula vinaka, Malo e leilei, and welcome to the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga.

Fiji thanks the delegation for the presentation of the National Report and for its commitment to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.

As a fellow Pacific Small Island Developing State (PSIDS), Fiji understands the unique human rights challenges arising with the increasingly adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Fiji commends the Government of Tonga for its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its extensive social protection systems in place, aimed to address the needs of those most vulnerable, including the elderly, women, children and persons with disabilities.

Fiji welcomes Tonga’s ratification of core international human rights instruments, and understands full well the challenges of reporting against the backdrop of human resource constraints. Fiji also welcomes Tonga’s commitment to ratify the Convention against Torture (UNCAT) and takes note that the final review remains. Fiji continues to stand ready to assist Tonga in its ratification and implementation journey for UNCAT, and in this spirit of constructive engagement Fiji offers the following recommendations:

1. Expedite efforts to complete all internal processes for the ratification of the Convention against Torture (UNCAT).
2. Strengthen efforts to address all forms of violence against women, children and against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, including efforts to prevent violence, support survivors, as well as by removing obstacles that prevent access to justice.
3. Allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources to strengthen and improve the education system and infrastructure, and provide human rights training to teachers.

We wish the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga a successful review.

Malo 'Aupito, vinaka vakalevu and thank you.

**298 words (Speed: 145 words per minute)**