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

**(1 – 12 May 2023)**

**UPR of Bahamas**

Wednesday 3 May 2023, 14:30 – 18:00

Speaking time: 1 min 25 seconds

Thank you Mr. President.

Fiji welcomes the delegation of Bahamas and thanks it for the presentation of the National Report.

As a fellow SIDS, Fiji understands the unique human rights challenges arising with the increasingly adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters. We commend the Government of Bahamas for its steadfast commitment to protecting and promoting the rights and fundamental freedoms of all its people and its commitment to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, Fiji offers the following recommendations:

1. Continue to ensure full and meaningful participation of women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly persons and local communities in the implementation of policies on disaster risk reduction, post-disaster management and climate change.
2. Strengthen efforts to provide and improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health services and information.
3. Enhance support services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence and take measures to raise awareness among law enforcement officials, lawyers, judges, social workers and health-care professionals of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and children who are victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

We wish the delegation a successful review.

Thank you.

**200 words**

**(speed is: 145 words per minute)**