

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

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Thank you Madam Vice-President,

Fiji welcomes the delegation of Albania and thanks it for its report.

Fiji congratulates Albania for being the first country in its region to have an Action Plan and Online Platform on Human Rights, which provides evidence-based information and transparent monitoring of human rights observance in Albania.

Fiji takes note of the absence of climate change and environmental information or impact assessments in Albania’s National Report for this review.

Despite this, we note that Albania is a party to all three Rio Conventions, on climate change, desertification and biodiversity. We also note that Albania is a party to a number of environmental conventions.

No country in the world is immune to the impacts of climate change. Like Fiji, Albania is one of the most vulnerable countries in the region to a changing climate. The impacts of climate change on agriculture will continue to disproportionately affect the rural poor, in particular women and the elderly, because of their greater dependence on agriculture, their relatively lower ability to adapt and the high share of income they spend on food.

In this regard, Fiji makes the following recommendations:

1. Firstly, Fiji recommends that Albania strengthen its national disaster preparedness plans to ensure that appropriate national and local measures are in place to adapt to changing climate conditions and reduce risks from future disasters.

1. Secondly, Fiji recommends that Albania take into account the vulnerabilities, needs and views of women, children, youth, elderly persons and persons with disabilities and indigenous and other marginalised groups in developing policies, projects or programmes on issues related to climate change and disaster risk management.
2. Lastly, Fiji recommends that Albania continue to build institutional capacity, data and knowledge to integrate environment and climate considerations more fully into the national regulatory framework and develop new capacities and systems for implementation and compliance monitoring across major sectors.

We wish Albania every success in its review.

Thank you Madam Vice-President.