

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

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Thank you Mr Vice-President

Fiji welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan and thanks it for its report and continued engagement in this UPR process.

Fiji commends the Kingdom of Bhutan for reporting on its initiatives for the environment, climate change and disaster management its national report. Like Fiji, the Kingdom of Bhutan, is vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. Among the most vulnerable are persons with disabilities, women and children and consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, resilience building must address their needs. We commend Bhutan’s efforts and encourage Bhutan to continue to build such resilience.

In this regard, Fiji makes the following two recommendations;

1. Firstly, Fiji recommends that the Royal Government of Bhutan enable greater inclusion and participation of women, children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous and other marginalized communities in devising holistic strategies towards managing climate change and its impact on livelihoods.
2. Fiji welcomes Article 7 of the Constitution which prohibits torture and inhuman, cruel and degrading treatment. In this regard, Fiji recommends that the Royal Government of Bhutan intensify its efforts to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment.

We wish the delegation of Bhutan every success with its review. Thank you Mr Vice-President.