

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

**OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA.**

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Thank you Madam Vice-President

Fiji welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and thanks it for the presentation of its national report and continued engagement in this UPR process.

Fiji commends the DRC for incorporating activities related to climate change and gender resilience into its National Agricultural Investment Programme.

Fiji places emphasis on the business and human rights correlation and paradigm and notes the DRC’s efforts taken to improve the business climate.

In this regard, Fiji makes the following three recommendations:

1. Firstly, Fiji recommends that DRC ensures that business operations comply with international human rights law, labour law and environmental law.
2. Secondly, Fiji recommends that DRC investigate and prosecute those involved in the illegal exploitation of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold in Shabunda territory.
3. Thirdly, Fiji recommends that DRC investigate and prosecute perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence and the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Shabunda territory.

We wish DRC every success in its review. Thank you Madam Vice-President.