

**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

**34thSession of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Fiji –6 November 2019**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Fiji and appreciates the comprehensive presentation made and engagement with the HRC today.

We appreciate the commitment of Fiji towards advancing and protecting the fundamental human rights principles and values in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through a robust national legal framework, strong institutions and national policies, complemented by constructive dialogue and cooperation.

Fiji has taken a number of practical measures to improve its democratic governance, rule of law and human rights. This includes the ratification of all 9 core human rights treaties and conventions and the commitment to the establishment of a National Mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up. Fiji’s judiciary continues to play a vibrant role, in the protection of the rights of the people.

[Sri Lanka also notes the work done by Fiji in the area of human trafficking as well as accession to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and Children in 2017.]

The launch of Fiji’s first National Adaptation Plan at COP 24 and the establishment of a robust legislative and policy framework in disaster response contributes towards addressing effectively the climate challenge while building strong and resilient communities.

Sri Lanka also notes Fiji’s consistent and targeted investment to advance universal primary education as well as measures taken to eliminate discrimination against women and gender based violence.

We take this opportunity to recommend that Fiji:

* Continues to ensure improving medical health services in the country including through further investments in training of healthcare professionals and strengthening of efforts to reduce under five and infant mortality rates.
* Considers developing through stakeholder dialogue a National Human Rights Action Plan.
* Continues to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms including the special procedures.

We wish Fiji success in its UPR engagement and thank the delegation for its informative presentation. Thank you.