

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**34th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 6 November 2019**

**Recommendations and advance questions to**

**Fiji**

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes Fiji’s engagement for Human Rights as a member and vice-president of the Human Rights Council as well as Fiji’s engagement for protection of the environment. Germany also welcomes Fiji as member of the Convention against Torture Initiative.

Germany recommends:

1. Withdraw all its reservations to the Convention against Torture and intensify its effort to prevent torture in all settings.
2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the optional protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
3. Repeal the right "to administer reasonable punishment" in the Juveniles Act 1974 and prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including in the home.
4. Bring legislation on freedom of expression, assembly and association in line with international human rights standards, in particular, by repealing “The Media Industry Development Decree” 2010.
5. Legislate to address hate crimes against the LGBTI-community.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**GERMAN ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO FIJI:**

1. Could you elaborate on how civil society was involved in the UPR process?
2. What are the reasons for not ratifying the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
3. In February 2015, Fiji removed the death penalty from the Military Code and, thereby, from all national law. This should path the way to joining the Second Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Why hasn’t Fiji joined this important treaty yet?
4. What concrete steps and measures is Fiji undertaking and planning to undertake to reduce the high levels of domestic violence against women?
5. What concrete steps and measures is Fiji undertaking and planning to undertake to prevent the ongoing discrimination of and violence against LGBTI persons and provide them with a safe and enabling environment?