**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand**

**Mr. Worawut Smuthkalin**

**Counsellor**

**at the Review of Fiji**

**during the 34th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**on Wednesday 6 November 2019 from 09.00 to 12.30 hrs.**

**(Speaker Number: 31 Time: 1 minute 15 seconds)**

Mr. President,

Thailand welcomes the delegation of Fiji to the third UPR. We commend Fiji on its active role as a Member of the Human Rights Council as well as the ratification of all 9 core international human rights instruments which reflects the Government of Fiji’s determination in promoting and protecting human rights in the country.

We also applaud Fiji for more engagement of Fijian women in politics, in particular during the general election last year. Nevertheless, we note that while
the number of women being elected as MPs increased, the number of female political party leaders decreased. Thailand, therefore, recommends Fiji **to continue its efforts in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women both in politics and national socio-economic development.**

Thailand also recommends **Fiji to accelerate the establishment of a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF)** in order to ensure systematic follow-up of all human rights recommendations and timely reporting to all treaty bodies.

I thank you.

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*(160 words)*