

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

**OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA**

**34TH CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**RECOMMENDATION FOR IRAQ**

Thank you Mr (Mr/Ms Vice) President.

Fiji welcomes the delegation of Iraq and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its national report. Fiji congratulates Iraq on the many achievements specified therein.

Fiji commends Iraq on the creation of its Women’s Empowerment Division of the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in 2016 and its role in empowering Iraqi women. Fiji notes that a bill on domestic violence is currently before the Council of Representatives and that female genital mutilation has been outlawed as an offence of domestic violence under Iraq’s current law, resulting in a sharp decline in its prevalence.

Fiji makes the following recommendations:

1. That Iraq finalise its bill on domestic violence and enact it into law, prohibiting all forms of domestic violence and prescribing appropriate penalties for violations; and
2. That Iraq continue to improve the enforcement of its laws against female genital mutilation and further reduce its prevalence until the complete abolition of its practice.

1. Fiji notes the absence of information in the national report on Iraq’s domestic initiatives to address the causes and effects of climate change. Fiji recommends that Iraq ensure that women, children, and persons with disabilities are meaningfully engaged in the development of legislation, policies and programs on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Thank you, Mr (Mr/Ms Vice) President.