**Statement delivered by Mr. Noah Patrick Kouback ,**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations and UN Agencies in Geneva**

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

**Review of Fiji**

**6th November 2019**

Thank you, Mr President,

Bula and warm welcome the delegation of Fiji to this review and thank the Hon. Kamal Kumar Chief Justice for his comprehensive presentation today.

Vanuatu note and commend Government of Fiji for its efforts at the promotion and protection of Human Rights among its people, as evidenced in its first National Adaptation Plan, serving as a concrete step in building resilience to climate change and strengthening national efforts in the realization of human rights in the country.

We welcome the positive steps taken up by the government including: ratification of all core nine human rights treaties during this review period; passing of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, and Climate Reallocation of Communities Trust Fund Act 2019. All SIDS can learn from Fiji’s experience on establishing this Displacement Trust Fund.

Vanuatu recommends Fiji:

* To implement transparent and effective mechanisms for public consultations with CSOs and enable more constructive involvement of civil society in the preparation of law and policy including UPR.

Finally, Vanuatu call upon all UN Members to provide Fiji financial and technical assistance in order to timely and effectively implement recommendations set out in this UPR process.

We wish Fiji every success at this Review.

Vinaka Vakalevu, Mr President.