**Statement**

**Delivered by**

**H.E. Dr. J.R. Deep Ford, Permanent Representative of the**

**Co-operative Republic of Guyana at the**

**34th Session of the UPR Working Group: Presentation of Fiji’s Report**

***Palais des Nations***

***November 6, 2019***

Mr. President,

Guyana warmly welcomes the Fiji Delegation and thanks them for their thorough National Report that reflects Fiji’s strong commitment and constructive engagement to ensuring human rights.

We congratulate Fiji on its robust and comprehensive response to the recommendations at the second cycle of its UPR and for ratifying all 9 core human rights treaties and conventions. In this regard we highlight Fiji’s accession in 2017 to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

We applaud Fiji’s First Hour Procedure (FHP) project. This intervention works to ensure that all arms of the Police system and legal profession respect the rights of citizens to fair and humane treatment in accordance with the laws of Fiji.

We also recognize the proactive work of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, particularly for its various education and advocacy programs.

Mr. President, we commend Fiji’s National Climate Change Policy and National Adaptation Plan, especially how this seeks to increase the participation of women and girls in climate action.

**Recommendations:**

* The Fiji Government should continue to engage positively with human rights organizations to protect all vulnerable groups;
* The Fiji Government should continue its efforts to empower women and girls, increasingly expanding their access to social services and economic opportunities.

To conclude, Mr. President, Guyana thanks Fiji for its leadership in contributing to advancing human rights for all and we wish Fiji success in its UPR.

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I Thank You.