



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

UN Human Rights Council UPR WORKING GROUP 20th SESSION Fiji

Thank you, Mr. President.

The State of Israel welcomes the Fijian delegation to its second UPR.

We would like to congratulate Fiji's recent adoption of a new Constitution which enshrines non-negotiable principles and values such as a common and equal citizenry; a secular State; the removal of systemic corruption; an independent judiciary; non-discrimination policy; good governance; social justice; the elimination of ethnic voting; proportional representation; and a voting age of 18 years.

In this regard, Israel, as part of the Multinational Observer Group, praises Fiji's efforts to adopt and further implement recommendations made during its first UPR pertaining free and fair elections. The result of last September's democratic, transparent and credible elections has not only meant a major achievement for Fiji, but has also paved the way for international sanctions to be dropped, including Fiji's return to the Commonwealth.

Consequently, Israel would like to ask: are there any concrete measures being taken to further strengthen and support efforts made to maintain a judiciary independent of the Government and the military?

With this in mind and honoring a commitment made during its first UPR cycle, we wish to recommend Fiji to welcome the visit of Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, in order to provide expertise and assistance in the process.

Thank you.