

VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

1. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Fiji will work in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue to drive progress with human rights around the world. The Council should be a forum for dialogue, mutual understanding, shared values and common progress.
2. As part of its commitment to cooperation, during its membership Fiji commits to further strengthening its engagement and cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms, and with the Treaty Bodies. Fiji has extended a standing invitation to Special Procedures to visit Fiji based on priority areas for Fiji. During its membership, we will pursue, in particular, visits by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment and by the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of religion. Fiji also commits to ratifying those international human rights conventions to which it is not yet Party, and clearing its backlog of periodic reports to the UN Treaty Bodies.
3. If elected, Fiji will become only the third Small Island Developing State to ever become a member of the Human Rights Council. The fact that few SIDS and LDCs have stood for and won election to the Council undermines the body's legitimacy and effectiveness, and runs counter to the universality of human rights. If elected, Fiji will therefore work to increase the participation of SIDS, especially PSIDS, in the work of the Council, including by supporting and working with the LDC-SIDS Trust Fund, by working with the Commonwealth Small States Office to ensure all PSIDS have a presence in Geneva, and by exchanging experiences and good practices regarding Council membership with other SIDS.
4. Fiji will further develop its national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRF), so that it becomes one of the world's leading implementation mechanisms. This will include leveraging information technology to make the NMIRF more efficient and transparent. Fiji will also host a regional meeting of Pacific NMIRFs to exchange good practice.
5. Fiji will offer strong support to Council initiatives where it has a particular interest, including: human rights and climate change; human rights and environment; human rights and migration; human rights of internally displaced persons; women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and violence against women; independence of judges and lawyers; and torture prevention.
6. Fiji will continue to build bridges between the international human rights and climate change communities, so that human rights obligations and commitments may inform and strengthen the implementation of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. Fiji will focus, in particular, on ensuring that climate policy takes into account the particular vulnerabilities and potential (as agents of change) of women, children and persons with disabilities.
7. Fiji pledges to champion global recognition of the universal right to a safe and healthy environment, as called for by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment in March 2018.

8. Regarding situations of violations of human rights, Fiji will emphasise the importance of prevention (in accordance with the Council's mandate): both the prevention of violations at root cause level by building domestic resilience and local capacity, and by responding promptly to human rights emergencies via engagement and cooperation with the concerned State and region. In-so-doing, Fiji will remain objective, and will avoid politicisation or selectivity.
9. Fiji pledges to work with other interested States, including other Small States, to guide reform of the Council's work under item 10 of its agenda: so that the body can better act as a forum for States to share information on progress with implementation, and request international technical assistance and capacity-building support in an atmosphere that inspires confidence and cooperation.