



FIJI

# UPDATED ASSESSMENT OF R2P IMPLEMENTATION 2023



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Fiji remains a relatively strong supporter of R2P in 2023, and of multilateral measures to address peace and security issues more broadly, particularly when those issues are related to climate change. It continues to vote and speak in favour of R2P in UN settings, and supported and contributed to relevant regional initiatives such as RAMSI and the strengthening of the Pacific Islands Forum. Fiji is a significant contributor to UN peacekeeping and supports the spirit of the Kigali Principles on civilian protection. It has also strengthened training and capacity on civilian protection and committed to the voluntary compact for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers.

Fiji has acceded to and implemented most of the relevant instruments of international law and is a party to the Rome Statute. It is also in the process of adopting an R2P focal point. We can thus expect to see Fiji's improvement on multiple indicators in the future.

Fiji's record on domestic implementation remains similarly strong overall. It has relatively strong legislative protections for individual human rights and group rights. It has a fairly robust civil society, but there is the potential for this to decline in the future, particularly with increased censorship in the media and academic functions, and the erosion of judicial independence. This needs to be monitored closely in the future.

Although Fiji has historically had issues with ensuring a legitimate, effective and civilian-controlled security sector, in the past year, Fiji has made a concerted effort to strengthen the accountability of the police force and ensure it is fulfilling community needs. Fiji has been working with bilateral partners on this. There has also been a strong attempt to increase women's representation in the police force.

Although tensions between different ethnic groups exist, Fiji does a relatively good job of managing them constructively. The most significant problem confronting the country is its long history of military coups and the prevalence of the military in Fijian society. However, this circumstance has never resulted in atrocity crimes and is unlikely to do so in the foreseeable future.

Fiji's overall performance bodes well for effective R2P implementation into the future, both in the country itself and the wider Pacific region.

Fiji's index score has increased with four points compared to 2022.

Thematic Area	Indicator	Assessment	Notes
Basic Compliance	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes.	Very Strong Unchanged	The government of Fiji currently protects its population from atrocity crimes.
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks.	Very Strong Unchanged	The government's Public Order Act (POA) can enable the security forces to act with impunity throughout the country. Abuses in the security sector and corruption in the government, particularly in the judiciary, do result in human rights abuses. Widespread gender-based violence, especially during the pandemic, is still a problem in Fiji, although there is a concerted effort to address it. Despite these risks, chances of widespread atrocities being committed in Fiji remain low.
	Dealing with past atrocities.	Very Strong Unchanged	Fiji has not suffered previous atrocity crimes, despite a tumultuous history of military coups.
Policy Mechanisms	Appoint national R2P Focal Point.	Fair Increase	Although it is not yet official, Fiji is in the process of appointing a R2P focal point.
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships.	Very Weak Unchanged	There remains no evidence of Fiji incorporating atrocity risks into development partnerships it has with other countries.
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.	Very Weak Unchanged	There are no domestic accountability mechanisms in Fiji for the government to uphold its responsibility to protect. This may change once Fiji adopts a R2P focal point.
International Human Rights Obligations	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law.	Very Strong Unchanged	Fiji has ratified eleven of the twelve international human rights laws that are most relevant to R2P. It still has neither signed nor ratified the <i>Arms Trade Treaty</i> [ATT], <sup>1</sup> but it has expressed a strong commitment to accede to the treaty and is actively working towards this. <sup>2</sup>
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court.	Very Strong Unchanged	Fiji maintains its status as a State Party to the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> . <sup>3</sup> Under Fijian law, a Fijian national can be tried for genocide and crimes against humanity, but some provisions for war crimes are missing. Fiji has accepted recommendations in the past to align its national legislation fully with the <i>Rome Statute</i> . <sup>4</sup>
	Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.	Strong Unchanged	Fiji established the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission (FHRADC) in 2009. Yet there were limits to its independence under the presidential decree through which it was commissioned.

<sup>1</sup> Arms Trade Treaty, 2020. *UN Member States that have not yet joined the ATT*, [https://thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/List%20of%20UN%20Member%20States%20that%20have%20not%20yet%20joined%20the%20ATT%20\(07%20August%202020\)/List%20of%20UN%20Member%20States%20that%20have%20not%20yet%20joined%20the%20ATT%20\(07%20August%202020\).pdf](https://thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/List%20of%20UN%20Member%20States%20that%20have%20not%20yet%20joined%20the%20ATT%20(07%20August%202020)/List%20of%20UN%20Member%20States%20that%20have%20not%20yet%20joined%20the%20ATT%20(07%20August%202020).pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva, 2023. *Fiji Statement Ninth Conference of the Arms Trade Treaty*, <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/Fiji%20-%20General%20Statement/Fiji%20-%20General%20Statement.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> International Criminal Court (ICC), n.d. *The States Parties to the Rome Statute*, [https://asp.icc-cpi.int/en\\_menus/asp/states%20parties/pages/the%20states%20parties%20to%20the%20rome%20statute.aspx#F](https://asp.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/asp/states%20parties/pages/the%20states%20parties%20to%20the%20rome%20statute.aspx#F).

<sup>4</sup> Parliamentarians for Global Action, n.d. *Fiji and the Rome Statute*, <https://www.pgaction.org/ilhr/rome-statute/fiji.html>.

		<p>However, multilateral efforts have been undertaken to strengthen the capacity of the FHRADC and make it more compliant to the Paris Principles.<sup>5</sup> As of April 2023, the FHRADC holds a ‘B’ ranking according to GANHRI.<sup>6</sup> There is still a belief in Fiji that the FHRADC remains a pro-government body, as it has declined to address politically sensitive human rights matters. The constitution prohibits the commission from investigating cases relating to the 2006 coup and 2009 abrogation of the 1997 constitution.<sup>7</sup></p>
	<p>Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination.</p>	<p>Fair <b>Unchanged</b></p> <p>Fiji retains relatively strong protections of human rights. However, the POA is a source of much of its problems regarding human rights, as it allows the government and the security forces to use measures otherwise prohibited under the constitution to enforce and maintain public order.<sup>8</sup> These include the rights of freedom of expression, association, and movement.<sup>9</sup></p> <p>Laws that have a broad application and definition of terms, such as sedition, and instances of government corruption have a flow on effect within Fijian society. Impunity within the security forces, censorship within the media and academic functions, and the erosion of judicial independence are all factors that limit Fiji’s full assurance of human rights within the country.</p>
	<p>Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.</p>	<p>Very Strong <b>Unchanged</b></p> <p>Fiji undertook its third UPR in November 2019. In its report to the UPR Working Group, it made note that it had ratified all nine of the core international human rights treaties as of August 2019, based on recommendations it has received previously.<sup>10</sup> The State also made note that it is committed to developing a monitoring and follow-up capability for implementing recommendations from treaty bodies, as well as recognising the need to protect human rights in the wake of natural disasters and climate change.<sup>11</sup></p> <p>The High Commissioner of Human Rights recommended that Fiji develop a comprehensive national human rights action plan in preparation for its fourth UPR. Additionally, Fiji was encouraged</p>

<sup>5</sup> Asia Pacific Forum, 2020. *Building capacity in Fiji’s human rights commission*, <https://www.asiapacificforum.net/news/building-capacity-fijis-human-rights-commission/>.

<sup>6</sup> Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), 2021. *Chart of the Status of National Institutions*, p.10, <https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/StatusAccreditationChartNHRIs.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, ‘Section 5. Governmental Posture Towards International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights’, [https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/415610\\_FIJI-2022-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/415610_FIJI-2022-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., ‘Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person’.

<sup>9</sup> Amnesty International, 2021. *Fiji: 2020*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/fiji/report-fiji/>; Freedom House, 2021. *Freedom in the World 2021: Fiji*, <https://freedomhouse.org/country/fiji/freedom-world/2021>.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, Human Rights Council, National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21: Fiji, 7 October 2019, A/HRC/WG.6/34/FJI/1, paras. 26-29.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., paras. 5, 38, 148.

		to establish a national mechanism for comprehensive reporting. <sup>12</sup>
		Fiji has a total number of nine overdue reports, seven which are overdue by less than five years. <sup>13</sup>
Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations.	Strong Unchanged	Fiji maintains its open invitation for UN mandate holders. While there are many visits of mandate holders that need to be finalised, <sup>14</sup> the State has made note of its willingness to welcome and facilitate these visits, based on previous visits of Special Rapporteurs. <sup>15</sup>
Ensure equal access to justice.	Strong Unchanged	Arrest and detention procedures within Fiji remain mostly adequate, although prison overcrowding and complaints concerning inadequate essential services are still an issue. <sup>16</sup>
		The constitution prohibits arbitrary arrest, and the government generally observes this requirement. Under the POA, the minister of defence and national security may authorise detention without charge, but outside of this, prisoners must be charged within 24 hours of arrest or released. This right has been generally respected. <sup>17</sup>
		The First Hour Procedure – a 2017 initiative – provides detainees prompt access to counsel. Police are also required to record their “caution interview” with detainees to ensure they understand their constitutional rights.
		These initiatives have helped decreased the number of complaints regarding detainee abuse by Fiji’s security forces. <sup>18</sup>
Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.	Strong Unchanged	Fiji maintains its criminalisation of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
		It has yet to provide for the crime of aggression. <sup>19</sup>
Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism.	Fair Unchanged	Fiji continues to recognise the threat of terrorism and violent extremism and to work towards combatting it. They recently participated in a series of discussions on counter-terrorism and international cooperation on criminal matters with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), acting on behalf of

<sup>12</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, " Letter from OHCHR on Implementation in 3rd Cycle ", Letter to Mr. Inia Seruiratu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Fiji, 20 May 2020.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), n.d. *Late and non-reporting States*, [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx).

<sup>14</sup> UNOHCHR, n.d. *View Country visits of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council since 1998*, <https://spinternet.ohchr.org/ViewCountryvisits.aspx?visitType=all&lang=En>.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations, Human Rights Council, A/HRC/WG.6/34/FJI/1, paras. 13-18.

<sup>16</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Equipo Nizkor, n.d. *Republic of Fiji*, <http://www.derechos.org/intlaw/fji.html>.

	<p>Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.</p>	<p>Fair <b>Unchanged</b></p>	<p>the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee.<sup>20</sup></p> <p>Fiji is making notable progress towards strengthening its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulation by reviewing existing laws and drafting new ones.<sup>21</sup> Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a pervasive problem within Fiji and the wider Pacific. Laws within the country criminalise sexual harassment, rape, spousal rape and other forms of sexual assault and discrimination, including against LGBTIQ+ persons. Unfortunately, high frequencies of these crimes are reported.<sup>22</sup></p> <p>Nonetheless, Fiji is taking positive steps forward. In July 2023, Fiji’s Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Lynda Tabuya, launched a National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Fiji (2021-2028).<sup>23</sup> The Fijian Government has committed an initial \$1 million for the first year. The Australian Government has also provided \$6 million. Fiji is the first Pacific Island country to develop such a plan.<sup>24</sup></p> <p>As well as this, the Fiji Police Force Support Project tackles the challenge of SGBV by strengthening the capacity of law enforcement officials to respond to and investigate allegations of SGBV, domestic violence, and child abuse.<sup>25</sup> The project has a focus on Sustainable Development Goal 16 (just, peaceful and inclusive societies), and Goal 5 (empowerment of women and girls).<sup>26</sup></p>
	<p>Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with</p>	<p>Strong <b>Unchanged</b></p>	<p>The number of refugees within Fiji remains small,<sup>27</sup> and the country is noted to cooperate well with the UNHCR when dealing with refugees.<sup>28</sup></p>

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Security Council, Counter Terrorism Committee, 2023. *Counter-Terrorism Committee concludes focused visit to Fiji*, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/news/counter-terrorism-committee-concludes-focused-visit-fiji>.

<sup>21</sup> International Monetary Fund, 2023. ‘Republic of Fiji: 2023 Article IV Consultation-Press Release; and Staff Report’. *IMF Staff Country Reports 2023*, <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2023/238/article-A001-en.xml#A001fn11>. See also The Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, 2023. *6th Follow-Up Report Mutual Evaluation of Fiji*, <https://apgml.org/includes/handlers/get-document.ashx?d=d7254f5a-850a-4ddb-a4ef-8ba6dc09f2cf>.

<sup>22</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, ‘Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses.

<sup>23</sup> Raqio, Mosese, 2023, ‘Ministry of Women launches National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls’. *Fiji Village*, 2 June 2023. Available at: <https://www.fijivillage.com/news/Ministry-of-Women-launches-National-Action-Plan-to-Prevent-Violence-Against-Women-and-Girls-8fx5r4/>

<sup>24</sup> Australia also has a National Action Plan.

<sup>25</sup> UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, 2023. *Women on the front line: how the Fiji Police Force are working to further women’s representation*, <https://www.undp.org/pacific/stories/women-front-line-how-fiji-police-force-are-working-further-womens-representation>.

<sup>26</sup> UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, 2023. *Women on the front line: how the Fiji Police Force are working to further women’s representation*, <https://www.undp.org/pacific/stories/women-front-line-how-fiji-police-force-are-working-further-womens-representation>.

<sup>27</sup> macrotrends, 2021. *Fiji Refugee Statistics 1995-2021*, <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/FJI/fiji/refugee-statistics>.

<sup>28</sup> U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, ‘Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties, Including: f. Protection of Refugees.

	International Refugee Law.		While not directly related to those fleeing atrocity crimes, Fiji has continued to make a point of the vulnerability of those fleeing natural disasters brought about by climate change. At COP23 in 2018, Fiji launched the Planned Relocation Guidelines for those affected by climate change events. The guidelines recognise the importance of collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and seek to “...ensure an inclusive and gender responsive consultative and participatory process to strengthen communities’ riposte to climate change impacts...” <sup>29</sup>
Domestic Implementation	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence could be found of a national assessment having been conducted.
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society.	Strong Unchanged	<p>The Fijian government’s relationship with civil society, particularly the media, has historically been tumultuous. The POA has limited movement and the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association have been curtailed in recent years.<sup>30</sup></p> <p>The previously enacted <i>Media Industry Development Act</i> and sedition laws that include criticism of the government, resulting in a pervasive culture of self-censorship in Fiji,<sup>31</sup> were repealed in April 2023, as part of Rabuka’s commitment to end the era of “media oppression”.<sup>32</sup></p> <p>While not a strictly repressive State, the continuation of restrictions on media freedoms and civil liberties during the COVID-19 pandemic has related in a slight fall in ratings measuring Fiji’s protection of its civil society. The role of the country’s security sector in these curtailments,<sup>33</sup> who act with wide impunity (see Indicator below), means the situation could worsen in the future.</p>
	Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector.	Fair Increase	Fiji’s security forces have historically been accused of abusing persons. Data has shown 400 accusations of serious crimes were levelled at members of Fiji’s military or police between May 2015 and April 2020. 16 were for rape, two for murder, nine for manslaughter, five for abduction and over 100 for assault. <sup>34</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Ministry of Economy, 2018. *Planned Relocation Guidelines: A framework to undertake climate change related relocation*, p. 3, <https://cop23.com.fj/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CC-PRG-BOOKLET-22-1.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, ‘Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties, Including:’.

<sup>31</sup> Reporters Without Borders, 2023. *Fiji*, <https://rsf.org/en/fiji>; Freedom House, 2021. *Freedom in the World 2021: Fiji*, ‘Civil Liberties’.

<sup>32</sup> Talebula Kate, 2023, ‘Government assurance to end era of media oppression’. *The Fiji Times*. 14 February. Available at: [The Fiji Times » Government assurance to end era of media oppression](https://www.fijitimes.com/government-assurance-to-end-era-of-media-oppression).

Shah, Mahsood, 2021. ‘Is Fiji keeping up – Education for this century’. *The Fiji Times*, 17 April. Available at: <https://www.fijitimes.com/is-fiji-keeping-up-education-for-this-century/>

<sup>33</sup> Examples of Fiji’s security sector stifling dissent can be found here: CIVICUS, 2021. *Civic Space Developments: Fiji*, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/?country=91>. See also: UNOHCHR, Pacific Community, 2021. *Human Rights in the Pacific: A Situational Analysis 2020*, p. 58-74, <https://hrsd.spc.int/sites/default/files/2021-07/HRSD%20SIT%20ANALYSIS%20FINAL%20Revised%20version%2012%20july%202021%20web.pdf>.

<sup>34</sup> McDonald, Joshua, 2020. ‘A Spotlight on Police Brutality in Fiji’. *The Diplomat*, 30 November. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/a-spotlight-on-police-brutality-in-fiji/>.

			<p>Further, the constitution and Public Order Act “explicitly provide impunity for members of the security forces for any deaths or injuries occurring arising from the use of force deemed necessary to enforce public order”.<sup>35</sup> There were also fears in 2021 that a controversial Police Bill would get off the ground and give police more surveillance powers<sup>36</sup> and potentially erode human rights in police practices.<sup>37</sup> However, the bill has since been abandoned.</p> <p>Whilst some issues with impunity remain, there has been a concerted and positive effort by the Fijian Government in 2022 and 2023 to strengthen the police force’s accountability and ensure it fulfills the community’s needs.</p> <p>The United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office is currently collaborating with the Fiji Police Force through the Fiji Police Support Project. This project, also supported by the Government of New Zealand, aims to bolster accountability and transparency.<sup>38</sup> This has been joined with an effort to increase women’s representation in the police force, as ensuring greater gender balance becomes a strategic priority in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 5.<sup>39</sup></p>
	<p>Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness.</p>	<p>Strong Unchanged</p>	<p>Education levels in Fiji remain strong and are generally inclusive. There is some concern that due to the disruptions from COVID-19, students may be falling behind.<sup>40</sup></p>
	<p>Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.</p>	<p>Strong Increase</p>	<p>Fiji, due to its adherence to the <i>Rome Statute</i>, retains legislation that prosecutes nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.</p>
<p>Bilateral and Multilateral Relations</p>	<p>Participate in international, regional, and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P.</p>	<p>Fair Unchanged</p>	<p>Fiji was part of the UN General Assembly’s Plenary Debate on R2P in 2021 and was one of many co-sponsors of the subsequent resolution “The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”.<sup>41</sup> Little other interactions, most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been found.</p>

<sup>35</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, ‘Section 1.

Respect for the Integrity of the Person’, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/fiji>.

<sup>36</sup> Radio New Zealand, 2021. ‘Fiji Draft Police Bill withdrawn: PM’s move puzzles critics’, *RNZ*, 19 March. Available at: [Fiji Draft Police Bill withdrawn: PM's move puzzles critics | RNZ News](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/438486/fiji-draft-police-bill-withdrawn-pm-s-move-puzzles-critics).

<sup>37</sup> Radio New Zealand, 2021. ‘Law society raises concerns over Fiji Police Bill’. *RNZ*, 16 March. Available at: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/438486/law-society-raises-concern-over-fiji-police-bill>.

<sup>38</sup> UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, 2023. *Fiji Police Force Support Project Annual Report 2022*, <https://www.undp.org/pacific/publications/fiji-police-force-support-project-annual-report-2022>.

<sup>39</sup> UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, 2023. *Women on the front line: how the Fiji Police Force are working to further women’s representation*, <https://www.undp.org/pacific/stories/women-front-line-how-fiji-police-force-are-working-further-womens-representation>.

<sup>40</sup> Shah, Mahsood, 2021. ‘Is Fiji keeping up – Education for this century’. *The Fiji Times*, 17 April. Available at: <https://www.fijitimes.com/is-fiji-keeping-up-education-for-this-century/>; Gounder, Neelesh, Jai Narayan, 2021. *Strategies for education recovery in Fiji*, <https://devpolicy.org/strategies-for-education-recovery-in-fiji-20210630/>.

<sup>41</sup> GCR2P, 2021. *Summary of the 2021 UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/publications/summary-of-the-2021-un-general-assembly-plenary-meeting-on-the-responsibility-to-protect/>.



Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect.

Strong  
Unchanged

Fiji has not voted against any recent UN General Assembly Resolutions referencing R2P.

**UN General Assembly Resolutions:**<sup>42</sup>

- 2021: Terrorism and human rights A/RES/76/169: **adopted without vote.**
- 2021: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea A/RES/76/177: **adopted without vote.**
- 2021: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/76/228: **abstain.**
- 2022: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/RES/77/218: **yes.**
- 2022: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea A/RES/77/226: **adopted without vote.**
- 2022: Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar A/RES/77/227: **adopted without vote.**
- 2022: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/77/230: **abstain.**

Fiji served on the Human Rights Council from 2019-2021. It was the first Pacific Small Island Developing State to become a member of the Council in 2019 and the first to be elected to the position of Vice President in 2020.<sup>43</sup> Since then, it has voted in favour of resolutions referencing R2P.

Encourage and assist States to fulfil their R2P in situations of emerging and ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy.

Fair  
Unchanged

Fiji deployed 50 peacekeepers in response to rioting and violence in the Solomon Islands in November 2021.<sup>44</sup> Fiji retains a strong relationship with other Pacific Island nations and takes a leadership role regarding climate change. Yet there is little evidence they actively engage with other countries over the issues of fulfilling R2P.

Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.

Fair  
Unchanged

Fiji’s recent ascension to the presidency of the Human Rights Council has given the country an opportunity to speak on pressing international human rights issues and other issues seen through a human rights lens, such as the pandemic and climate change.

Climate change has long been seen through the lens of human rights and human security by Pacific Island nations,<sup>45</sup> and there have been calls in international fora for the establishment of a Special

<sup>42</sup> GCR2P, 2021. *UN General Assembly Resolutions Referencing R2P*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/un-general-assembly-resolutions-referencing-r2p-2/>. (Voting records for each resolution were accessed using the UN’s Digital Library: General Assembly of the United Nations, n.d. *Voting Records*, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/documents/voting.asp>.)

<sup>43</sup> Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations, 2021. *Fiji concludes term in the Human Rights Council*, <https://www.un.int/fiji/news/fiji-concludes-term-human-rights-council>.

<sup>44</sup> AFP, 2021. ‘Fiji sends troops to Solomon Islands as hunger fears grow’. *France 24*, 29 November. Available at: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211129-fiji-sends-troops-to-solomon-islands-as-hunger-fears-grow>.

<sup>45</sup> Young, Miles, 2021. *Fiji’s Presidency of the Human Rights Council Brings Opportunity and Responsibility to the Pacific*, <https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/directors/2021/01/fijis-presidency-of-the-human-rights-council-brings-opportunity-and>.

Rapporteur to report on such linkages.<sup>46</sup> Due to Fiji's sustained emphasis on climate change, the Council appointed a Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change in October 2021.<sup>47</sup>

While perhaps not directly related to atrocity prevention,<sup>48</sup> measures that strengthen human rights protections are likely to also contribute to structural atrocity prevention in the region.

Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations.

Fair  
Unchanged

Fiji's emphasis on climate change in international fora<sup>49</sup> is mirrored in its regional dealings. The issues of climate change, COVID-19 and sustainable economic growth have been central in Fiji's reengagement with the Pacific Islands Forum.<sup>50</sup>

Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities.

Fair  
Improved

Fiji has made great progress and made a continued effort to support the work of regional human rights and other preventative capacities. They have played an active part in the Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention.<sup>51</sup>

In July 2022, the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P Centre), in partnership with the Fiji Law Society (FLS) and the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS), held a seminar titled Regional Security and the Responsibility to Protect, in Suva, Fiji. Fiji is encouraged to continue this positive trajectory.<sup>52</sup>

Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships.

Fair  
Unchanged

The World Bank facilitated a Country Partnership Framework for Fiji in 2021, to better enable economic growth in the face of natural disasters, climate change and COVID-19.<sup>53</sup> The World Bank has also implemented a new Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative in the Pacific, along

<sup>46</sup> The Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group, n.d. *Creation of a new UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change*, <https://climaterights.org/our-work/unfccc/creation-of-un-special-rapporteur-on-human-rights-and-climate-change/>.

<sup>47</sup> UNOHCHR, 2021. *Human Rights Council appoints a Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights in the context of climate change and a Special Rapporteur to monitor the situation of human rights in Burundi*, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=27639&LangID=E>.

<sup>48</sup> Linkages between climate change, conflict and the commission of atrocity crimes is a nascent field of research, and beyond the scope of a technical annex. However, APR2P has begun conducting research into such linkages and other development priorities of Pacific Island nations. More information can be found at the [R2P Pacific Project](#).

<sup>49</sup> UN News, 2021. *Pacific nations appeal for solidarity to combat COVID-19 and climate change*, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1101282>.

<sup>50</sup> Lyons, Kate, 2021. 'Pacific Islands Forum: climate crisis and old rows surface as leaders meet screen-to-screen'. *The Guardian*, 7 August. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/07/pacific-islands-forum-climate-crisis-and-old-rows-surface-as-leaders-meet-screen-to-screen>.

<sup>51</sup> APR2P, 2023. *Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) Working Group for Gender and Atrocity Prevention*, [https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/9984/Spotlight\\_apr2023\\_APPAP\\_WG\\_Gender.pdf](https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/9984/Spotlight_apr2023_APPAP_WG_Gender.pdf).

<sup>52</sup> APR2P, 2023, *Regional Security and The Responsibility to Protect Seminar in Fiji*, [https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/9626/Spotlight\\_feb2023\\_regionalsecurity\\_R2P\\_Fiji.pdf](https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/9626/Spotlight_feb2023_regionalsecurity_R2P_Fiji.pdf) (r2pasiapacific.org).

<sup>53</sup> The World Bank, 2021. *World Bank Group's new Country Partnership Framework for Fiji (2021-2024)*, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pacificislands/brief/world-bank-groups-new-country-partnership-framework-for-fiji-2021-2024>.

		<p>with other partners.<sup>54</sup> The Asian Development Bank also initiated a new development strategy with the country for 2019-2023.<sup>55</sup> Fiji's largest bilateral donor, Australia, invested over A\$81million primarily in the areas of infrastructure, trade, and education as part of the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership.<sup>56</sup></p> <p>While the work of these partnerships is beneficial, there is no mention of atrocity prevention measures being carried out.</p> <p>The UNDP, in conjunction with the FHRADC, delivered human rights awareness workshops in 2020, focusing on grassroots and sporting initiatives.<sup>57</sup></p>	
United Nations, prevention, Peacekeeping, and assistance	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Fair <b>Unchanged</b>	No recent evidence could be found of Fiji's support (or otherwise) for the UN's Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Strong <b>Unchanged</b>	Fiji continues to support broad functions of the UN in areas that support atrocity prevention. Its tenure in the Human Rights Council has generally been seen as a step forward in the promotion of human rights, and the country continues to call for equitable action on climate change and recovery from the pandemic. <sup>58</sup>
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes.	Strong <b>Unchanged</b>	No new evidence of Fiji supporting atrocity crime prevention was found. However, it is clear from other Indicators that Fiji continues its broad support for atrocity prevention and makes particular mention of climate change and gender-based violence as issues that need to be solved. <p>While indirectly related to atrocity prevention, exposure and action on such issues is likely to contribute to upstream prevention of atrocity crimes.</p>
	Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate).	Very Strong <b>Unchanged</b>	Fiji continues to be a regional leader in peacekeeping and maintains its devotion to deploying well-trained and professional peacekeeping forces. <sup>59</sup>

<sup>54</sup> World Meteorological Organization, 2021. *Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services in the Pacific (CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0)*, <https://public.wmo.int/en/projects/strengthening-hydro-meteorological-and-early-warning-services-pacific-crews-pacific-sids-20>.

<sup>55</sup> Asian Development Bank, 2019. *ADB, Fiji Mark Renewed Development Partnership with New Strategy*, <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-fiji-mark-renewed-development-partnership-new-strategy>.

<sup>56</sup> Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2021. *Fiji Development Cooperation Factsheet: May 2021*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/development-cooperation-fact-sheet-fiji.pdf>. See also: Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, n.d. *Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/fiji/fiji-australia-vuvale-partnership>.

<sup>57</sup> UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, 2020. *Promoting human rights awareness helps communities build forward better*, <https://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/promoting-human-rights-awareness-helps-communities-build-forward-better.html>.

<sup>58</sup> UN News, 2021. *Pacific nations appeal for solidarity to combat COVID-19 and climate change*.

<sup>59</sup> See: Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, 2021. *Honourable Minister's Statement (3min) UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Virtual Meeting*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/fiji.pdf>.

			As of October 2021, Fiji currently has 342 personnel deployed over seven missions, primarily in Iraq and the Golan Heights. One of them, UNMISS, has a protection of civilians mandate. <sup>60</sup>
	Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping.	Very Strong Unchanged	Fiji, in partnership with Australia, will complete work on the Blackrock Camp in early 2022. This camp is intended to become a regional hub for peacekeeper training and improve Fiji's responses to humanitarian disasters. <sup>61</sup>  Fiji has also endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments, an initiative by the UN Secretary-General to strengthen peacekeeping methods and deployments. <sup>62</sup>
	Support the Kigali Principles.	Very Strong Unchanged	In Fiji's statement at the 2021 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Seoul, Fiji's Defence Minister made mention that Fiji was a signatory of the Kigali Principles, as well as the Voluntary Compact to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, and the Vancouver Principles to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers. <sup>63</sup>
	Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention.	Very Weak Unchanged	Fiji remains a non-signatory to both the ACT Code of Conduct <sup>64</sup> and the French/Mexican initiative on the suspension of veto powers. <sup>65</sup>

<sup>60</sup> UN Peacekeeping, 2021. *Troop and Police Contributors*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>. (Fiji can be selected from the drop down menu).

<sup>61</sup> Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, 2021. *Honourable Minister's Statement (3min) UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Virtual Meeting*; Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2021. *Fiji's Blackrock Camp nearing completion*, <https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/fijis-blackrock-camp-nearing-completion>.

<sup>62</sup> See: UN Peacekeeping, n.d. *Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)*, 'Declaration of Shared Commitments', <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/action-for-peacekeeping-a4p>.

<sup>63</sup> Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, 2021. *Honourable Minister's Statement (3min) UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Virtual Meeting*. See also: Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security, n.d. *The Vancouver Principles*, <https://dallaireinstitute.org/vancouver-principles/>.

<sup>64</sup> GCR2P, 2019. *List of Signatories to the ACT Code of Conduct*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-signatories-to-the-act-code-of-conduct/>.

<sup>65</sup> GCR2P, 2020. *List of Supporters of the Political Declaration on Suspension of Veto*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-supporters-of-the-political-declaration-on-suspension-of-veto/>.