Greetings

Thank you, Madam Chair of the Respective Committee on the (UNCRPD), for inviting me to give an oral statement on Article 11 – situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

My name is Eve Naqio, and I'm the project officer for Disability Pride Hub, the first network of LGBTIQA+ with disabilities in the Pacific region. We are affiliated to the Rainbow Pride Foundation and are currently working on a project that advances the lives of our members in a holistic approach. This project is supported by the Disability Rights Fund (DRF)

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant adverse impact on people in Fiji and throughout the globe. Suffice to say, SOGIESC persons with disabilities in Fiji feel marginalized and left out with the government’s response to support its people during the pandemic. We feel that there has been a great deal of talking but not much action when it comes to implementation of policies that should include affirmative actions to assist a minority group like ours to thrive and participate effectively in society.

Furthermore, the Fijian government’s disaster risk reduction policy embeds mechanisms of inclusive disability specific awareness and preparedness as well as during and post disaster yet there is a lot to be considered and actioned to include SOGIESC persons with disabilities. . In this regards, I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. That information be made accessible including in the medium that is used during disasters;
2. The government should make inclusive shelters for people with disabilities and LGBTIQ people during disasters and particular care is taken to ensure that relevant and appropriate information are accessible for the affected and impacted people.
3. The government should ensure the intersectionality and diverse sexuality is respected and accorded reasonable accommodation in situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies.

I thank the UN in Geneva for giving me the opportunity to give my statement.