

**Campaign on the Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of SDG 14**  
**Parliamentary Question on the Ratification of the IMO's Cape Town Agreement**

Fiji (Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua)

Ministry of Fisheries

Honorable Minister Semi Tuleca Koroilavesau:

On 21 October 2019, during the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, you ensured Fiji took steps towards becoming a model nation against IUU fishing in the Pacific by signing the Torremolinos Declaration and committing to Cape Town Agreement (CTA) ratification by 11 October 2022. Your accompanying statement underscoring the importance of addressing IUU fishing further showcased Fiji's commitment to ensure the sustainable management of our shared marine resources under a safer fishing environment.

As you know, human trafficking and forced labor can happen at every step of the fishery supply chain. Exploitation of crew members has long been used to subsidize costs on IUU fishing vessels, and labor abuses include physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. Until the CTA enters into force, there are no mandatory global safety regulations for fishing vessels. These risks and abuses are now compounded by the current pandemic, making the entry into force of the CTA more urgent than ever.

The efficacy of the CTA depends on the widespread support of States and efforts to denounce the proliferation of IUU fishing. The Ministry has already begun to contribute to increased sustainability of fisheries and protections of fishers through the recognition of the CTA as an effective tool to curb and deter IUU fishing.

In view of the above, and recognizing the potential of Fiji to become a beacon for the CTA in the Pacific, I would like to ask to the Hon. Minister Koroilavesau:

1. What steps has Fiji taken towards the ratification of the IMO's Cape Town Agreement?
2. Are there any obstacles to timely ratification of the Cape Town Agreement?
3. What is our country's timeline towards ratification of the Cape Town Agreement?