



## PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

### CALL FOR WRITTEN OR IN-PERSON SUBMISSIONS

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence invites **written and in-person submissions** from the public, civil society organisations, maritime stakeholders, academic institutions, the private sector, and other interested stakeholders on the following treaty currently under Parliamentary consideration:

#### INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE, 1979 (SAR CONVENTION)

The International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 (SAR Convention) was adopted in Hamburg in 1979 and entered into force in 1985. Its objective is to establish an international framework for cooperation in maritime search and rescue, ensuring that persons in distress at sea are assisted without discrimination.

##### **Key elements of the SAR Convention are as follows:**

- (a) Establishment of Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs) globally.
- (b) Obligation for contracting States to provide adequate SAR services within assigned regions.
- (c) Creation of Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) and Sub-centres.
- (d) Duty to assist persons in distress regardless of nationality or circumstances.
- (e) Incorporation of later amendments introducing the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and rules on disembarkation of rescued persons.

##### **Submissions**

The Committee is reviewing the Treaty in accordance with the Standing Orders of Parliament and welcomes views on its implications for Fiji, including legal, operational, financial, humanitarian, maritime safety, and international obligations, and any recommendations for Parliament's consideration.

##### **Written Submissions**

Interested parties are invited to lodge written submissions addressing any aspect of the Treaty. Written submissions should be submitted no later than Friday, 6 February 2026 and can be sent to:

- Email: [tirisiane.logavatu@legislature.gov.fj](mailto:tirisiane.logavatu@legislature.gov.fj)
- Hard copy:  
*The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence*  
*Parliament of the Republic of Fiji*  
*Government Buildings, Suva*

##### **In-Person Submissions (Public Hearings)**

The Committee will also conduct public hearings to allow stakeholders to present their views in person. Individuals or organisations wishing to appear before the Committee should indicate their interest when lodging their written submission or contact the Committee Secretariat directly, by Friday, 30 January 2026.

Details on hearing dates, venues, and times will be provided to confirmed participants.

##### **Further Information**

Copies of the Treaty and related information are available from the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji website under the [Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence webpage](#) or may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat.

For enquiries, please contact:

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**Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence Secretariat**  
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Email: [tirisiane.logavatu@legislature.gov.fj](mailto:tirisiane.logavatu@legislature.gov.fj)



**HON. LENORA QEREQERETABUA  
(CHAIRPERSON)**