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expression and of assembly. The Committee invited the Government to accept a direct contacts mission with a view to obtaining a full picture of the trade union rights situation in the country and assisting the Government in the rapid and effective implementation of all outstanding recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry. It expected that the Government would submit detailed information on proposed amendments to the abovementioned laws and decrees to the Committee of Experts at its meeting this year and trusted that it would be in a position to note significant progress with respect to all remaining matters at its next session.

213. As regards the application by **Fiji of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)**, the Committee took note of the statement made by the Government representative and of the discussion that followed.
214. The Committee observed that the outstanding issues in this case concerned numerous and grave allegations of the violations of the basic civil liberties of trade unionists, including arrest, detention and assaults and restrictions of freedom of expression and of assembly. The Committee further observed the issues relating to a number of discrepancies between the labour legislation, in particular the Public Order (Amendment) Decree (POAD), the Employment Relations Promulgation and the Essential National Industries Decree, and the provisions of the Convention. The Committee further recalled the resolution adopted by the ILO Governing Body in November 2012 calling on the Government to accept a direct contacts mission under previously agreed terms of reference based on conclusions and recommendations of the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association in Case No. 2723.
215. The Committee noted the Government's statement that the draft Constitution ensured protections for human and socio-economic rights and the independence of the judiciary and the Government was intensively preparing for democratic elections in September 2014. It further noted the Government's commitment to: finalize the review of the labour legislation with the social partners within the framework of the Employment Relations