



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia

at the
29th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Tonga

Geneva, 15 January 2018

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to thank the distinguished Delegation of Tonga for their national report, its presentation today and expressed commitments to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to **recommend** to the Government of Tonga to establish a mechanism for improving coordination and strengthening of various institutions dealing with discrimination of women, taking into consideration that Tonga still hasn't established an institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles).

In regard to participation of women in political and public life, we would like to note with appreciation some positive measures taken by the Government of Tonga. We encourage Tonga to continue such efforts, especially by removing loopholes in national legislation and with encouraging participation of women in economy and politics.

There are still concerns about the protection of children in criminal proceedings and use of corporal punishment as a sentence by the courts for all persons. Various reports had revealed that corporal punishment remained widespread in the country, including in primary and secondary school settings.

Thank you!