

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

RÉPUBLIQUE ALGÉRIENNE DÉMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

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15th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Geneva, 21 January – 1st February 2013

Statement of the Algerian Delegation on the UPR of Tonga

Geneva, January 2013

Mr. President;

My delegation welcomes the distinguished delegation of Tonga and highly appreciates the engagement of Tonga in the UPR process. This reflects the commitment of this country to the promotion of human rights.

We note with interest the process of reforms introduced in the country in 2010, particularly the recent legislative reforms and the establishment of a new parliamentary system.

We are also encouraged by the steps undertaken by Tonga to ensure the well-being of its population as well as the efforts in the field of combating violence against women, promoting education and gender equality.

We take note that although the Courts in Tonga applied some core human rights conventions. However, we believe that the ratification of these instruments is a useful way to further advance the cause of human rights.

We recommend, therefore, that Tonga consider ratifying core human rights instruments, particularly ICESCR, ICCPR and CEDAW.

We appreciate the positive steps taken by Tonga to promote women participation in public life. However, and as mentioned in the OHCHR compilation, no women had been elected to Parliament in 2010 and economic empowerment of women faces persistent challenges, with regard to gender wage gaps and low women employment rates.

We recommend that Tonga take further measures aiming at promoting women participation in public life and particularly their representation in Parliament.

Finally, we wish all the success for Tonga in the UPR process and in the advancement of human rights.