

New v.

UPR 15, January 21, 2013
Recommendations by Canada

Tonga

Question

In 2008, Canada raised concerns with respect to corruption in Tonga. We take note of significant progress since then. Given that governance has an essential role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as the implementation of international obligations, Canada would like to know what specific steps Tonga took to improve its standing. What further steps are planned to continue the improvement and eventually eliminate graft in the public sector?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Tonga:

1. Take measures to reinforce protections for freedom of expression in practice, including guaranteeing freedom of the press and internet freedom.
2. Take steps to prevent incidents of discrimination and violence against women.
3. Amend its legislation to repeal laws which criminalize consensual adult same sex relations.

Observations (if time allows):

We welcome the significant electoral and constitutional reforms introduced by Tonga in the lead-up to the November 2010 election. These reforms, should they be consolidated, can eventually lead to Tonga becoming a fully representative democracy.

We remain concerned that constitutionally-guaranteed freedoms such as freedom of speech and of the press are not always protected in practice. We stress the importance for the government to take measures to protect freedom of expression.