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PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

Erling Hoem

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Geneva, 21 January to 1 February 2013

Statement from Norway:

UPR on Tonga

Thank you Mr. President,

Norway would like to thank Tonga's delegation for the presentation of their national report for the UPR review and recognizes the country's efforts in preparation for the review. Norway acknowledges that Tonga has taken important steps towards democratic reform in recent years.

Norway views effective cooperation with the UN Human Rights machinery as fundamental in order to improve the human rights situation on the ground. We note that commitments to ratify important human rights conventions at the previous UPR cycle have still not been implemented. We therefore **recommend** that Tonga takes steps to ratify the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CEDAW and the CAT.

We are concerned about reports of high levels of domestic violence. In this respect Norway notes with concern that Tonga does not criminalize rape that takes place within marriage. Norway **recommends** that Tonga introduces and implements a comprehensive legal framework to protect women and girls against all forms of gender-based violence, and in particular that it introduces legislation that prohibits domestic violence and immediately criminalises rape within marriage. Norway also notes with concern that Tonga's legislation discriminate against women within the field of inheritance. We **recommend** that Tonga amends its legislation to include the principle of equality between men and women and give men and women equal rights of inheritance.

Furthermore, Norway **recommends** that Tonga bring its national legislation into conformity with its commitment to equality and non-discrimination, by repealing the provision in the Penal Code to criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.

Finally, Norway notes that Tonga has not used capital punishment since 1982. We therefore **recommend** that Tonga takes the necessary steps to abolish the death penalty.

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