

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga and thank for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Since the previous review, Slovakia has taken a positive note of the implementation of legislative reforms and the establishment of a new parliamentary system with general elections in November 2010. We also appreciate the efforts of Tonga to tackle discrimination and violence against women by setting up the National Domestic Violence Unit in 2007 as well as a “no-drop policy” adopted in 2008, aimed at ensuring that domestic violence-related crimes were investigated and prosecuted in a consistent and uniform manner. At the same time, noteworthy is the recognition of the absolute prohibition of torture since 2007. Slovakia also acknowledges the establishment of a Professional Standards Unit to address police conduct in November 2009.

Slovakia would like to make the following recommendations:

1. while commending a *de facto* moratorium of death penalty with the last execution carried out in 1982, we **recommend Tonga to take steps towards a full abolition of the capital punishment, with immediate effect in particular towards juvenile offenders.**
2. **to consider a ratification of the third Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.**
3. **to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.**
4. Last but not least, we **recommend reforming the Tonga’s Nationality Act to include safeguards against statelessness, so that children born in the Tonga’s territory, who would otherwise be stateless, can acquire Tongan nationality.**

I thank you, Mr. President.