

Emb.

14



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

UPR of TONGA

Mr. President,

Slovenia extends a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of Tonga. We appreciate their presence here today and their report on the implementation of first cycle recommendations. We especially welcome the holding of free and fair elections in 2010 and reforms towards a more democratic form of governance.

With respect to the integration of a gender perspective in Tongan policies, which has been our previous recommendation to Tonga, we note some positive developments in protection of women – such as the establishment of the National Domestic Violence Unit, the “no-drop policy” with regard to domestic violence, and the new Reproductive Health Policy. Nevertheless, Tonga is reportedly off track with regard to Millennium Development Goal 3 on gender equality and empowerment of women. In this respect, we **recommend**:

- ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,
- enacting legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender, including with regard to land rights,
- taking affirmative action to increase women’s participation in political life.

We also understand that the age of criminal responsibility in Tonga is 8, which is well below the international standard. In this respect, we **recommend** raising the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years, and prohibiting corporal punishment as a sentence of the courts for all persons, but especially those under 18 years old at the time of the offence.

Thank you.