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UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
15TH SESSION
COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: TONGA
Intervention by Turkey

Thank you Mr. President,

We would like to welcome the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga and thank the head of the delegation for his substantive presentation.

We commend Tonga, the first Pacific Island Country which appeared before the UPR in 2008, on its constructive engagement with the UPR process.

We acknowledge the positive steps taken by Tonga in recent years which reflect its commitment to democracy, rule of law and human rights. We particularly would like to welcome the constitutional and political reform process which resulted in the first democratic elections held in November 2010.

Tonga is one of the founding members of the Pacific Islands Forum, and maintains its highest ranking in Human Development Index of the UNDP among the Island States in her region. We commend Tonga's commitment towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

We praise the sincere efforts of Tonga becoming party to core international human rights treaties and encourage Tonga to continue these efforts. We believe that these treaties will strengthen the legislation of Tonga with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Turkey welcomes the dialogue that had progressed in the area of establishing a human rights mechanism at a national level in Tonga. We recommend Tonga to continue its efforts to create a national human rights institution.

In recent years positive steps forward have been taken on the elimination of violence against women and children. We note with appreciation the Cabinet's approval to review the existing legislation on violence against women and children as well as drafting of a subsequent amendment for enactment. We

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hope that following the consultation process, a Stand Alone Comprehensive Legislation dealing with all forms of domestic violence will be enacted. Along the same lines, Turkey recommends Tonga to ratify CEDAW and ICESCR, as well as ICCPR and CAT.

We are confident that Tonga will continue to uphold the core values that are prescribed its constitution dating back to 1875.

Thank you Mr. President.