

Statement by Hungary on Tuvalu, UPR Session 16, 24th April 2013

Mr. President,

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Hungary warmly welcomes the delegates of Tuvalu to the 16th session of the UPR and would like to express its appreciation for the thorough preparation of the national report before us.

We take positive note of the cooperation by the Government with the regional branch of the OHCHR and the expertise extended to the government by the CEDAW and the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation. Based on this positive experience we **recommend** Tuvalu to accelerate the process of legislative compliance review, mentioned in the state report (par 43.) in order to ratify the core human rights treaties, in particular the ICCPR. We would also see merit in issuing a standing invitation to all special procedures of this Council.

We recognise the efforts made by Tuvalu to eliminate existing gender inequalities between men and women, but we do think that besides the adopted national policies, the Constitution of Tuvalu, as a primary and ruling law, should include gender as a prohibited ground of discrimination. Therefore, Hungary **recommends** Tuvalu to fully incorporate the provisions of the Convention into its domestic legal system, including through the ongoing process of the amendment of the Constitution.

Hungary firmly believes that free and universal primary education should be accessible to both urban and rural areas and that the principle of equality of women and men has to be incorporated into the higher levels of the education system as well. For this reason we **recommend** Tuvalu to improve access to education for children living in rural areas and adopt further measures, special laws and awareness programs to promote gender equality in education.

My delegation is concerned about the fact that corporal punishment of children in schools is still lawful in Tuvalu. Therefore, Hungary **recommends** the Government to harmonize its Penal Code and legislation with the CRC in order to eradicate corporal punishment of children in schools and other settings.

Finally, Mr. President, we note with satisfaction that Tuvalu's Inclusive Education Policy contains training for teachers for children with disabilities and we very much hope that the Government will establish policies to increase participation of persons with disabilities in formal decision levels, particularly on important issues as gender, children's rights and climate change.

Thank you Mister President.