

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of Tuvalu, led by, for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia recognises Tuvalu's vulnerability to effects of climate change, impacting significantly population's standards of living. We commend the country for the provision of free and universal primary education through the Education for Life programme and the high literacy rates achieved. Noteworthy are also the Draft Water Act as well as the Sustainable and Integrated Water and Sanitation Policy being developed by the Government as well as the establishment of the Department of Women's Affairs within the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Coordinating Committee for Women or the inclusion of women and gender development in the National Strategic Development Plan for 2005-2015.

Slovakia would like to present Tuvalu the following recommendations:

1. **to ratify the ICCPR and its OPs as well as the ICESCR and its OP,**
2. **to proceed with the full incorporation of HR treaties to which Tuvalu is a party into its domestic legal system,**
3. **to amend country's Constitution, section 27 (1), and enact other appropriate legislation to prohibit discrimination on gender grounds,**
4. **to reinforce measures addressing violence against women, in particular the domestic violence, ensuring due accountability for perpetrators and increasing victims' effective access to justice,**
5. **to include legislative safeguard against statelessness with regards to children born in its territory, who would otherwise be stateless, to acquire Tuvaluan nationality,**
6. **and last but not least, to consider signing and ratifying the new Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.**

Thank you, Mr. President.