

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA**

**Statement by Trinidad and Tobago - Universal Periodic Review of Tuvalu**

**Palais des Nations, Geneva, 24 April 2013**

Thank you Mister President.

My delegation welcomes the Delegation of Tuvalu and commends them for their report.

My delegation has noted, with interest, the key national priorities set by the Government to promote and protect human rights in the country. Some of these priorities include the promotion of gender equality, minimizing the impacts of climate change and the provision of safe drinking water.

In terms of gender equality, my delegation wishes to commend the work of the Department of Women which, in collaboration with the UNDP, was able to carry out a national consultation on women in decision making.

As a small island developing State, Tuvalu remains vulnerable to the risks associated with sea-level rise and climate change. Such risks undoubtedly have an impact on food security, water, health and the general living conditions of Tuvaluans. In this regard, my delegation commends the work of the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) in addressing, *inter alia*, coastal and food security issues on the ground. My delegation is also pleased to learn that in July 2012, Tuvalu hosted the UN Special Rapporteur to examine the situation of water and sanitation in the country.

My delegation wishes to recommend the following measures:

1. That Tuvalu strengthens its national machinery to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming.
2. That Tuvalu complies with the UN Special Rapporteur’s recommendation to adopt and implement a national water strategy and plan of action covering the entire population.
3. That Tuvalu ratifies the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

I thank you Mister President.

37-39 RUE DE VERMONT, 1202 GENEVA, SWITZERLAND Tel: 022 918 03 80 Fax: 022 734 91 38 / 022 734 88 26

E-mail: [admin@ttperm-misson.ch](mailto:admin@ttperm-misson.ch)