

Universal Periodic Review 18 – Vanuatu

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the delegation of Vanuatu for their comprehensive statement and national report. The Netherlands appreciates the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights since the previous UPR review. We recognize the difficulties for Vanuatu, amongst others with regard to the small size of the country, the remoteness of some communities, and the vulnerability of Vanuatu to natural disasters. We hope that the UPR-process will continue to assist the government in addressing the ongoing challenges with regard to human rights.

We commend Vanuatu for ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2011 and welcome that the Vanuatu government is currently implementing the Family Protection Act, which is a positive step to combat domestic violence. However, the Netherlands remains concerned about the ongoing challenges with regards to corruption, and the fact that domestic violence is still wide-spread.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands therefore recommends Vanuatu:

1. To fully align its national legislation and policies with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in order to effectively combat corruption and to further improve integrity, transparency and accountability.
2. To continue to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the effective implementation of the Family Protection Act, and to adopt further comprehensive measures to combat domestic violence, with a special focus on women and girls with disabilities, who are at greater risk of all sorts of violence.

I thank you, Mr. President.