

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
REVIEW OF EL SALVADOR
Intervention by Turkey

Mr. President,

We would like to welcome the delegation of El Salvador and thank them for their insightful presentation as well as for their well-elaborated national report. We also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate El Salvador to its election to the HRC.

We appreciate the Salvadoran efforts to increase human rights standards in different areas.

In this regard it is worth mentioning the adoption of the 2011 Act on Equality, Equity and Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the introduction of a form of centralised registration of births and the reform of the National Health System, which, inter alia, resulted in the decrease of maternal deaths.

However, different reports still reflect various concerns as regards the situation of women and children.

We continue to note with concern the prevailing high incidence of violence against women. In line with the recommendation expressed by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Turkey **recommends** to take specific measures to protect women from being victim of discrimination and violence, including the promotion of women's rights through education and media, further training of public officials, reduction of gender inequalities and empowerment of women.

Turkey further **recommends** El Salvador to finalize the procedure of adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

While commending El Salvador's ongoing endeavour to protect children's and adolescents rights, we share the concerns of the treaty bodies in regard of the very high number of killings of children as well as about allegations of torture and ill-treatment of children, especially in the context of the fight against gangs. Therefore we **recommend** further developing and implementing comprehensive policies to prevent violence against children.

Finally, Turkey encourages El Salvador to pursue its efforts to combat poverty and social exclusion, including through its Universal Protection System.

I thank you, Mr. President.