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PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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UPR of SOLOMON ISLANDS

Mr. President,

Slovenia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Solomon Islands and thanks them for their presentation. We're pleased to learn of the enactment of the Family Protection Act criminalizing domestic violence, and of other advancements in legislation, case law and practice concerning violence against women. We further welcome the adoption of the Child and Family Welfare Bill and a number of other measures strengthening the protection of the rights of the child, as well as the adoption of the National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls which aims to increase gender equality. We consider our previous recommendation no. 80.8¹ to be implemented, and recommendation 80.14² to be mostly implemented.

Despite significant progress, much remains to be done in order to achieve gender equality in the country. We remain concerned by the prevalence and social acceptance of physical and sexual violence against women and girls, discriminatory customary practices, such as the practice of paying a "bride price", and exploitation of prostitution. Regarding persons with disabilities, we hope that the planned National Policy on Disability Inclusive Development will soon be put into action. We continue to **recommend** the ratification of the CRPD³.

We also reiterate our past **recommendations** no. 80.31⁴, 80.33⁵ and 81.50⁶.

In addition, we offer the following **recommendations**:

- repeal all legislation incompatible with the principle of equality and non-discrimination, including provisions of customary law, as recommended by CEDAW;
- step up measures aimed at eliminating violence against women and establish clear monitoring objectives for the implementation of policies against violence against women;
- ratify and implement all major international human rights treaties.

Thank you.

¹ 80.8. Urgently set into force legislation that criminalizes all forms of violence against women, including in domestic settings (Slovenia).

² 80.14. Introduce national legislation to ensure that the rights of the child are fully protected, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Slovenia).

³ 81.15. Ratify the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities and ensure that the rights of such persons are protected in law and in practice (Slovenia).

⁴ 80.31. End all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home and in schools, by enforcing its prohibition (Slovenia).

⁵ 80.33. Adopt a national plan of action against sexual exploitation of children and against child labour. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to internationally accepted standards and ensure that juvenile justice protection is accorded to all children up to the age of 18 years (Slovenia).

⁶ 81.50. Decriminalize sexual activities between consenting adults of the same sex (Slovenia).

Advance questions:

- We note that there is no legislation to legally prohibit corporal punishment of children but that the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Education and Human Resource Management carried out a study on 'barriers to education' with a set of recommended actions towards addressing corporal punishment. Are you foreseeing further measures towards ending all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings by enforcing its prohibition?