



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

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UPR of SAMOA

Mr. President,

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of Samoa for their national report and presentation today. We note certain positive developments in the country since its first universal periodic review. In this respect we welcome the establishment of the national human rights institution. We further commend Samoa for issuing the standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

However, challenges remain. In this regard we note with concern the prevalence of stereotypical portrayal of women, as well as the prevalence of sexual violence against women and girls. We are also concerned that the same sex relations between consenting adults continue to be criminalized.

Taking into account our previous recommendations 73.4¹, 73.5² and 73.6³ which enjoyed the support of Samoa in the first UPR cycle, we note with regret that Samoa has not yet ratified some of the key international human rights instruments, in particular International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Bearing in mind the above mentioned issues we would like to **recommend** to Samoa the following:

- to strengthen efforts to eliminate patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminate against women, including through a comprehensive public awareness program;
- to adopt measures to reduce violence against women and girls and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- to repeal all provisions criminalizing same-sex relations between consenting adults;
- to ratify ICESCR, ICERD and CAT.

Thank you.

¹ Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

² Consider ratifying International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

³ Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.