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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
GENEVA

The 25th Session of UPR Working Group Review of Samoa
Geneva, 3 May 2016

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Statement of the Republic of Korea

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

We welcome the delegation of Samoa and commend Samoa on its tireless efforts and achievements in improving the human rights situation since its first review in 2011. The establishment of the National Human Rights Institution, the opening of the Community Law Centre in 2015, and the enactment of the Family Safety Act 2013 are among the major progresses made since the first UPR. We also look forward to the start of the UPR coordinator's activities under the Office of the Ombudsman to support the UPR process and the treaty body reporting.

Despite these achievements, however, there still remain concerns, especially in the areas of women and gender equality as well as raising public awareness of persons with disabilities. With a view to calling Samoa's attention to these concerns, we would like to make the following four recommendations for Samoa:

- To consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- To sign the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OPCRC).
- To take necessary measures to remove difficulties facing persons with disabilities, including improving access to public spaces and services and empowering children and women with disabilities to exercise their rights.
- And to exert concrete efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President. /End/