UPR 44, November 8, 2023

**TUVALU**

Thank you, Mister Vice-President.

Canada welcomes the positive steps taken by Tuvalu to prohibit, in its new constitution, discrimination on the basis of sex or disability.

Canada recommends that Tuvalu:

1. Strengthen enforcement of laws criminalizing child abuse and sexual exploitation of children, including by thoroughly investigating and prosecuting all acts of sexual violence against children, and providing training to law enforcement officials on the handling of cases involving child maltreatment.
2. Strengthen enforcement of laws protecting persons with disabilities through awareness campaigns and by training law enforcement officials to support women with disabilities who have been subjected to sexual and gender-based violence and abuse.
3. Repeal Sections 153, 154 and 155 of the Penal Code, which criminalize male homosexual intercourse with a penalty of up to 14 years of imprisonment, and review all legislation, policies, and programs to ensure equality and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
4. Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT), and consider joining the International Criminal Court (ICC).

**Observations (if time allows):**

To conclude, Canada encourages Tuvalu to take measures to improve gender equality and women’s meaningful social, political and economic participation at all levels of society.

Canada also continues to be concerned about practices of societal and employment discrimination against certain groups, including persons with HIV or AIDS, and encourages the improvement of labour law and regulations.