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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**44th SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Review of TUVALU**

**08 NoveMBer 2023**

**(2 MINUTES)**

**speaker no: 30**

***Check against delivery***

Mr./Ms President, Vice President

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Tuvalu to this UPR Session and wishes the country a successful review.

South Africa wishes to make the following recommendations:

* Consider ratifying the following instruments; i) The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; ii) The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the respective optional protocols thereto allowing for communications procedures; iii) The optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, iv) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and v) the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
* Accelerate steps to fight all forms of discrimination against women and girls, paying particular attention to education, opportunities for decent work, and access to health care, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services;
* Train and empower teachers in the provision of rights-based family life education and train health workers in human rights and the provision of quality, respectful, and non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health services;
* Fully implement the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act 2014, strengthening the GBV capacity of the judiciary, law enforcement officers, legislators and health-care professionals;
* Adopt policy and legal measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity with a view to safeguard the rights of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, including but not limited to ensuring their access to sexual and reproductive health services;
* Strengthen its programmes on sexual and reproductive health education and expand them across the country, targeting adolescent girls and boys, with special attention paid to preventing early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, as well as provide free, confidential and adolescent-responsive sexual and reproductive health services to all adolescents, including post-abortion care

In conclusion, we commend Tuvalu for the strides made its since its last review, in particularly for the finalisation and adoption, by Parliament, of the Constitution Bill and congratulate Tuvalu for the new Constitution which came into force on 1st October 2023

I thank you