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**Statement of Ireland**

**38th session of the UPR Working Group**

Review of the Solomon Islands

**10 May 2021**

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Solomon Islands and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland acknowledges the Solomon Islands efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We commend the introduction of several policies aimed at improving the lives of women, girls and young people, including the National Policy to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls 2016-2020, the National Youth Policy 2017-2030 and the National Gender Equality and Women’s Development Policy 2016-2020. The Solomon Islands can continue this progress by acceding to the remaining core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the authorities of the Solomon Islands:

1. As part of ongoing efforts to protect children, explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, without exception.
2. Develop and adopt a comprehensive sexuality and family life education curriculum following the updated UN International Technical Guidelines on Sexuality Education (ITGSE).

We wish the Solomon Islands every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.