

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

**39**th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of the Independent State of Samoa**

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Madam President,

Vanuatu warmly welcomes the delegation of Samoa to its third review and thanks it for the comprehensive presentation today. As a fellow Small Island Developing State (SIDS), we note the efforts taken by Samoa to protect and promote human rights. In particular, Vanuatu commends the Government of Samoa for reaching, in 2018, 60 % of renewable energy for the country, which is a significant step toward implementation of the long-term Samoa 2040 Strategy for a sustainable environment and economy, thus protecting the rights of Samoans against the impact of climate change.

Vanuatu recommends to Samoa the following:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
2. Enforce measures to increase awareness on gender-based violence, especially against women and children, and penalise infractions adequately.
3. Establish a comprehensive policy of disaster risk reduction to protect people from extreme events caused by climate change and seek international assistance to implement a 100 % renewable energy goal by 2025.

Vanuatu wishes the Independent State of Samoa a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.