****

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS & PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE ET MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES  DES  NATIONS UNIES**

**ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

**STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF TONGA**

**13 May 2023– 14 30 hrs**

**Thank you Mr. President**,

The Mauritius delegation extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of Tonga during this fourth cycle of the UPR.

Mauritius expresses its appreciation to Tonga in its efforts to promoting human rights, both nationally and internationally.

As a Small Island Developing State, like Mauritius, with inherent vulnerabilities, we congratulate Tonga for its policies, in particular the ‘*’Tonga Climate Change Policy, A resilient Tonga by 2035’*’, which is multi-faceted, cross-sectoral, and gender-inclusive.

In a constructive spirit, Mauritius recommends that Tonga:

1. Consider putting in place necessary policies to ensure that all women, irrespective of the sector in which they are employed in, benefit equal amount of paid maternity leave; and
2. Consider, in line with the recommendation of the CRC to ratify a number of Human Rights Treaties and Covenants, such as, the ICECSCR, and CEDAW and the CAT, thus ensuring the better promotion and protection of the human rights of the Tongans.

We wish Tonga a successful review.

**Thank you.**