

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 29 – Tonga**

**15 January 2018**

**Delivered by Massimo Baldassarre, First Secretary**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished members of the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga and we thank them for their national report and today’s presentation.

Italy welcomes Tonga’s commitment to the UPR and its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We particularly commend the adoption of the Family Protection Act (2013) which criminalises domestic violenceagainst women and children, aims to increase awareness, and allows police to intervene and provide better protection to victims.

We also appreciate the launch of the Tonga Revised National Policy on Gender and Development aimed at improving gender equality.

Finally, we commend Tonga’s effort to promote social and economic development and, in particular, we appreciate measures adopted in favour of persons with disabilities.

Mr. President,

Italy would like to seize this opportunity to offer to the Kingdom of Tonga the following recommendations:

* *Consider to fully abolish the death penalty.*
* *Take steps to end child marriages by raising to 18 the minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls.*
* *Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.*
* *Abolish the provisions which authorizes corporal punishment.*

We wish Tonga a successful UPR.

I thank you.