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**Human Rights Council**

**29th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Tonga**

**January 15, 2018**

**Intervention by the delegation of Ukraine**

**Mr. President,**

Ukraine welcomes the delegation of Tonga and thanks for presentation of the National report.

The acceptance of a high number of recommendations in the second UPR cycle reflects Tonga’s commitment to further strengthening of its framework for the protection of human rights. We appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Government of Tonga to implement them.

In particular we are pleased to commend:

- the endorsing of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) as the global strategy for building the resilience of communities, aimed at reducing risk from natural hazards and disasters so as to help ensure sustainable development;

- the adoption of the Family Protection Act (2013), aimed at protection against domestic violence;

- the progress made toward achieving universal primary education by children.

Ukraine also congratulates Tonga on the successful general elections, held in 2014.

Taking into account the high risk of natural disasters in Tonga, as well as the country’s vulnerability before the climate change effects, we concur with the UN country team recommendation to Tonga to periodically assess the impact of climate change and natural disasters, particularly with reference to the enjoyment of human rights by the poor and lower-income segments of the population and various other social groups, and assist them in becoming more resilient in the face of such disasters.

Ukraine would like to **recommend** to the Government of Tonga:

1) in order to increase its capacity-building in the sphere of human rights, to cooperate with the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council, bearing in mind that the Fund is mandated to support targeted training courses and capacity-building activities on the international human rights system and international human rights law as well as induction training sessions for government officials of LDCs/SIDS to provide them with information on the multilateral human rights system;

2) to establish national human rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with Paris Principles;

3) to create a monitoring system for implementation of the current education policy framework for the period 2004-2019;

4) to increase efforts aimed at ratifying the core international human rights treaties including CAT and CEDAW.

**Thank you.**