**Statement by H.E. Ambassador John Ronald Deep Ford**

**Permanent Representative of Guyana**

**Third Cycle of the UPR: Presentation of Tuvalu’s Report**

**May 9th, 2018**

**Palais des Nations**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Government of Guyana, I would like to warmly welcome the Honourable Prime Minister and the distinguished delegation of the Government of Tuvalu for this very important moment of accountability in the life of nations. We congratulate the Government of Tuvalu on the presentation of its comprehensive Report to this Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Tuvalu must be commended for its efforts at the promotion and protection of Human Rights among its people, as evidenced in the Tuvalu Human Rights National Action Plan 2016-2020, serving as a concrete step in delivering on the country’s international obligations and strengthening national efforts in the realization of human rights in their country. We also commend Tuvalu for the adoption of amendments and legislation to harmonise its domestic laws with its international obligations.

Human rights are inextricably linked with social and economic development and in recognition of this, Tuvalu’s development aspirations in the country’s Te Kakeega III, linked to fundamental rights such as those to employment and housing, must be seen as a positive example for other developing countries.

Having examined the country Report and listened to distinguished Tuvalu’s delegation presenting the Report today, we would like to recommend as follows:

**Recommendations:**

1. We recommend the current Constitutional Review seek to clarify the principle of equality of women and men.
2. The Office of the People’s Lawyer could be strengthened with the necessary financial, human and technical resources to enable effective representation of those in need of legal aid.
3. Measures could be taken to address perceived restrictions to the freedom of religion.
4. The Right to Education should be treated similarly as other rights in the Constitution.
5. Amend the legislation to ensure equal rights for both parents for children born out of wedlock.

We thank the Government of Tuvalu for their cooperation in this UPR process and wish them a fruitful UPR review and success in its continuing social and economic development efforts.

Thank you.