**Statement by H.E. Barrett Salato**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative Solomon Islands**

**at Kenya’s Review, 35th Session of the UPR,**

**Geneva 20-31 January 2020**

*Check Against Delivery*

Madame President,

Solomon Islands welcomes the delegation of Kenya and thanks them for the positive engagement during this UPR process as well as its engagement with the HRC today.

We acknowledge efforts and initiatives of the Government of Kenya which has made significant progress in meeting its obligations through incorporating human rights principles into national legislation. We note Kenya’s promotion and protection of human rights on the ground including enacting the Access to Information Act, 2016 and efforts to actualise the right to water and sanitation.

We commend Kenya on promotion of child rights especially the recent formulation of Sessional Paper 1 of 2019 as a policy framework to ensure universal access to education, 100 per cent transition and retention in secondary education and development of skilled manpower benefiting girls and boys equally whatever their circumstances to meet national aspirations and Sustainable Development Goals.

In constructive spirit, Solomon Islands recommends that Kenya :

* Ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is fully protected and promoted;
* Continue efforts to ensure that all of Kenya’s religious communities, and particularly Christians, are able to practice their religion without fear of persecution by terrorist groups;
* Take steps to dissolve inter-religious tensions by promoting an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for religious diversity; advancing peaceful co-existence and guaranteeing religious freedom for;
* Intensify cooperation at both the national and international level in order to guarantee effective protection of the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers, including those fleeing from religious persecution;
* Continue to improve maternal health-care access for women from poor and rural backgrounds, in order to reduce the maternal mortality rate;
* Continue to advance efforts to safely get mothers and babies through pregnancy and childbirth, with special attention paid to improving health-care access for women from poor and/or rural backgrounds;
* Continue to improve standards of maternal healthcare while recognizing that abortion is not healthcare and will not make pregnancy and childbirth any safer;
* Reaffirm that the right to life exists from conception until natural death, and redouble efforts to protect it as such.

Salomon Islands wishes the delegation of Kenya a successful UPR.