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**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations and UN Agencies in Geneva**

**35**th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Kenya**

**23 January 2020**

Madame President.

Vanuatu warmly welcomes the delegation of Kenya to the UPR and notes the progress Kenya has made in upholding tenets of human rights.

We recognise the impact of the constitutional reforms enacted in 2010 on human rights and also of policies expanding social protection of vulnerable children, elderly people and persons with disability. We also note those policies which aim to reduce poverty and enable vulnerable people to access essential services.

Vanuatu makes the following recommendations:

1. Strengthens human rights education within the security services and across government to ensure that state officials operate in accordance with Kenya’s constitutional and international obligations;
2. Undertakes electoral reforms aimed at reducing conflicts that have been associated with elections;
3. Take measures to guarantee effective access for the women victims of gender-based violence to justice, protection and support; and
4. Take measures aimed at ensuring the economic and social rights of women, increase their employment, afford them equal opportunity and increase their participation in politics and leadership;

Vanuatu wishes the delegation of Kenya a successful UPR.

Thank you, Madam President.