

29th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

(15-26 January 2018)

Review of Tonga

Statement of Ireland

15 January 2018

223 words

Thank you, Mr (Vice) President

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Tonga and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland welcomes the progress made since the last UPR cycle, including in the democratic reform agenda. Ireland would encourage Tonga to continue to develop and implement constitutional and democratic reforms.

Ireland welcomes the fact, that in January 2013, Tonga issued a standing invitation to UN special procedures. However, Ireland notes that since the second UPR, Tonga has not become a party to any additional core human rights conventions. Thus, Ireland would **recommend** that Tonga make every effort to ratify core international human rights treaties, and that it fulfil its reporting obligations under the conventions that it has ratified.

Ireland also welcomes the enactment by the Government of Tonga of the Family Protection Act in 2013 which criminalises domestic violence against women and children. Ireland would **recommend** that Tonga take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of this Act and that it place a particular focus on legal and cultural awareness-raising campaigns.

We wish Tonga every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.