

20 March 2009

Human Rights Council
Tenth Session

Item 6
“Consideration of UPR reports”

Oral Intervention by Amnesty International on Tuvalu

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes many of the recommendations made by states to Tuvalu, including to cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen legislation related to family, land and sexual offences against children; and to establish a national human rights commission based on the Paris Principles.¹ Amnesty International believes that such a commission would significantly improve the promotion and protection of human rights in Tuvalu.

Amnesty International also welcomes recommendations to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce domestic violence in Tuvalu, including through raising public awareness and encouraging greater involvement by government agencies and civil society in efforts to address domestic violence and gender discrimination.² Amnesty International takes this opportunity to reiterate its call to Tuvalu to develop and enact legislation to protect women and children from violence, in particular domestic violence.

Prevailing cultural notions of women’s status continue to be a key factor in perpetuating violence against women in Tuvalu. Amnesty International therefore urges Tuvalu to support recommendations to eliminate legislation that has a discriminatory effect against women, and to amend the Constitution to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and gender.³ Amnesty International considers that gender violence cannot be eradicated without addressing the underlying factors that cause or contribute to gender discrimination.

Amnesty International welcomes Tuvalu’s support of recommendations to ratify, with the assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a wide range of human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ A/HRC/10/84, paragraph 67, sub-paragraphs 7, 8 and 9, and paragraph 68, sub-paragraph 3.

² Ibid, paragraphs 67, sub-paragraph 12.

³ Ibid, paragraph 68, sub-paragraph 6.