



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the

32th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Vanuatu

Geneva, 24 January 2019

Mr President,

Slovenia welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu and thanks for the report and its presentation. The delegation has made a commendable work. As a small state ourselves, we understand the amount of dedication needed to prepare such a report.

We also take note that a number of recommendations have been taken into account and implemented. While we welcome steps taken to tackle physical and/or sexual violence against women, and take note of Vanuatu's important role in this regard in the region, we remain of the opinion that the issue deserves an even stronger response in the future.

We would like to make the following **recommendations**:

- to ensure protection orders, legal remedies and assistance for women victims of domestic violence and prosecute and punish perpetrators;
- to adopt laws that explicitly prohibit polygamy and enable the registration of all customary marriages;

My country remains also concerned with the use of corporal punishment which needs to be explicitly prohibited, in all settings. We remain even more strongly concerned with the high level of sexual abuse of children, including sexual harassment within communities. By tackling domestic violence, child abuse and sexual exploitation, your country should pay particular attention also to gender dimension.

Let me end this intervention by congratulating your government for your work in the field of human rights and climate change, may it be by commissioning the new Ministry of Climate Change, by updating existing or adopting new legislation, such as the recent ban on the use of plastics.

Thank you.