



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor, during the 3rdUPR
Review of Samoa**

39th UPR Session

02 November 2021

Madam President,

We welcome and thank the delegation of Samoa for presentation of its 3rd UPR report.

Samoa's cooperation with the UPR mechanism and establishment of national mechanism including broad multi-stakeholder consultative process for the preparation of the report are commendable.

Despite financial crunch and human resource constraints, we appreciate Samoa's commitment to comply with its human rights obligations. This commitment is well reflected through multiple legislative and administrative steps in various human rights areas. These include steps to strengthen National Human Rights Institution, protect rights of children, promote gender equality and combat violence against women and girls.

We encourage Samoa to continue with efforts to improve people's well-being and provide conducive environment for the enjoyment of human rights and achieve sustained socio-economic development.

We recommend Samoa to:

- a) Seek international assistance and support in mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change and COVID pandemic.
- b) Continue with efforts to operationalize National Development Plan and make progress towards achieving SDGs.

I thank you.