

Lucy Richardson, Second Secretary .

(58)

UPR – United Kingdom – 24 May 2012

New Zealand Statement

Thank you, Madame President.

New Zealand welcomes the delegation of the United Kingdom; we thank the delegation for having provided a mid-term update and for its solid engagement with civil society in the preparation of the national report. The United Kingdom can be proud of its record on human rights. We take this opportunity to ask some questions and make a recommendation.

Firstly, on the rights of persons with disabilities: New Zealand commends the UK for having ratified the CRPD since its first UPR. We note, however, that a number of reservations and an interpretive declaration were entered upon ratification, although one reservation has since been withdrawn. Can the UK provide any updated information on this? New Zealand recommends that the UK consider the effect and continued relevance of its remaining reservations to the CRPD, and consider the possibility of withdrawing them.

During the UK's first UPR in 2008, New Zealand asked for further information about the UK's national human rights institution, the Commission for Equality and Human Rights which had been created the previous year by merging three separate bodies. We note that in 2011 the UK government launched a consultation on its plans to reform the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. In its own response to that consultation, the Commission for Equality and Human Rights stated that it concurred with the government's broad intentions but considered that the proposals in the consultation document did not yet achieve the government's stated ends. Could the delegation provide an update on plans to reform the Commission for Equality and Human Rights?