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Human Rights Council

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New Zealand's Statement on Switzerland's UPR.

New Zealand welcomes Switzerland's on-going commitment to the advancement of human rights and its acknowledgment that despite a good record, there are improvements to be made.

New Zealand commends Switzerland on progress made towards implementing the recommendations in its first UPR review, and for the upfront way they identified previous recommendations in their national report. We welcome the establishment of a National Commission for the Prevention of Torture but **recommend** Switzerland include a definition of torture in its Criminal Code incorporating all elements contained in Article 1 of the Convention Against Torture.

New Zealand acknowledges the existence of bodies in Switzerland concentrated on protecting human rights. However, New Zealand **recommends** Switzerland convert the SRCHR into a wholly independent national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles, when the pilot project ends in 2015.

On women/gender issues, New Zealand remains concerned about issues faced by migrant women, particularly the residence status of those who become victims of domestic violence. Acknowledging improvements to the permit review process, we **recommend** Switzerland specify the criteria that applies to the consideration of evidence of violence when extending residence permits for victims of domestic violence to facilitate their fair, standardised and transparent application, in line with its acceptance of Recommendation 57.8. New Zealand further **recommends** Switzerland enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including explicitly LGBTI persons.

New Zealand notes that consultations have begun on accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We recommend Switzerland work expeditiously to complete this process in line with its acceptance of recommendation 57.12.

Thank you Madame President