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**UPR 15: The Bahamas
Statement of New Zealand
Delivered by Alana Messent, 23 January 2013**

New Zealand welcomes the Bahamas delegation here today: we particularly acknowledge your efforts as a country that is not represented here in Geneva in participating in this UPR process.

New Zealand recognises the capacity and resource challenges the Bahamas faces as a small island developing State. But as the Bahamas national report shows, the Government has taken some very practical steps towards improving the human rights situation in the Bahamas over the last four years.

In 2008, the Bahamas accepted recommendations to consider acceding to several core international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD). As you have noted today, the Bahamas has acceded to both ICCPR and ICESCR in this time, and we welcome this development. Building on this momentum, New Zealand **recommends that the Bahamas ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. New Zealand further **recommends that the Bahamas hold regular consultations with organisations representing persons with disabilities, in particular to review whether current legislation adequately addresses all the rights in the CRPD**.

New Zealand also welcomed the Bahamas acceptance in the first cycle of a recommendation to combat all forms of discrimination and to consider specific measures to promote tolerance and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. New Zealand would be interested to know what steps the Government has taken to implement this recommendation? In order to combat discrimination and promote tolerance, New Zealand **recommends that the Bahamas include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination in its Constitution Reform process**.

Finally, New Zealand **recommends that the Bahamas immediately establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and consider abolishing the death penalty in law**.

Thank you.