

60

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**16<sup>th</sup> session: Universal Periodic Review**  
**New Zealand's statement during Burkina Faso's UPR**  
**Delivered by Alana Messent, 22 April 2013**

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Thank you Mr President.

New Zealand welcomes the delegation of Burkina Faso, and thanks it for its comprehensive report. The Government of Burkina Faso's commitment to implementing the recommendations of the first UPR cycle is clear, and we welcome these positive developments in the past four years. New Zealand understands the challenges faced by all States in addressing human rights violations and we encourage the government to continue to address these challenges through human rights education.

New Zealand welcomes the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. We are encouraged by its broad mandate, including the ability to independently draw the Government's attention to human rights violations, and we **recommend** that Burkina Faso ensure its independent, impartial, and effective functioning in line with the Paris Principles.

We note the challenges faced by Burkina Faso in eliminating violence against women, particularly female genital mutilation and other harmful practices and we recognise the leadership role that Burkina Faso takes in international processes to tackle these issues. New Zealand **recommends** that Burkina Faso extend and expand comprehensive programmes to deliver sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls, particularly those who are more vulnerable such as rural women.

We welcome the progress made on the issue of the death penalty, including the current moratorium and the public consultations held in 2011. However, New Zealand **recommends** that Burkina Faso take further steps toward the abolition of the death penalty in law.

Thank you.