



**Universal Periodic Review: 17<sup>th</sup> session  
Review of Senegal  
Delivered by Ambassador Ellis  
21 October 2013**

New Zealand welcomes the delegation of Senegal to the Council today and thanks it for its presentation and its national report. We particularly thank Senegal for the clear way in which they have identified and addressed first cycle recommendations in the report.

New Zealand acknowledges and congratulates Senegal for the steps it has taken during the reporting period to implement 1<sup>st</sup> cycle recommendations and strengthen its human rights infrastructure.

One example is the creation of the National Observatory of Places of Deprivation of Liberty, which represents an important practical step in combating torture and ill-treatment in Senegal. We welcome the fact that the body has undertaken training seminars and is looking to assign representatives across the country. In order to further ensure the effective functioning of the mechanism, **New Zealand recommends that Senegal takes steps to ensure the operational independence of the Observatory by separating it from the executive branch and enabling it to select, recruit and remunerate its own staff.**

New Zealand also welcomes the political will outlined in Senegal's national report on child and maternal health. In particular we welcome the Government's announcement to implement a strategy to ensure free health care for children from 0 to 5 years of age and to promote the achievement of health-related MDGs. **In order to build upon these commitments New Zealand recommends that Senegal:**

- **Undertake to provide free and accessible healthcare for children up to the age of 6 years by 2015; and also recommends it**
- **Organise public awareness-raising campaigns, particularly among women, on Senegal's law on reproductive health.**

In concluding, New Zealand thanks Senegal for its engagement today, and for its consideration of New Zealand's recommendations.