



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

Eighteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group January and February 2014

Statement from Norway:

UPR of New Zealand

Norway warmly welcomes the delegation from New Zealand. Norway recognizes New Zealand's efforts and achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights domestically and internationally. The national UPR report indicates an inclusive consultation process and is exemplary in outlining challenges that the country acknowledges it still faces. Many of these same challenges are listed as issues of concern by the NHRI and NGOs that have submitted alternative reports.

Norway's statement at New Zealand's first review in 2009 focused on the rights of indigenous peoples and women – two areas where New Zealand has been a pioneer in terms of recognizing human rights. Recent reports, however, point to remaining challenges within these fields. Norway welcomes New Zealand's move to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in April 2010. Norway therefore recommends that New Zealand takes concrete measures to ensure the implementation and promotion of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Secondly, reiterating our recommendation from 2009, Norway recommends the ratification and implementation of ILO convention 169.

Finally, Norway recognizes positive results achieved in promoting gender equality and women's rights since the last UPR. At the same time, the national report admits that the level of violence against women, including sexual violence, remains high. We are encouraged by the government's determination to do more to address this serious matter, and also by further measures outlined in its report to empower women and improve women's rights in New Zealand. Norway recommends that New Zealand intensify its efforts in improving women's economic independence; and promoting the participation of women in governance.

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