

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA ON UPR OF NEW ZEALAND

Thank you,

Albania warmly welcomes the delegation of New Zealand to this UPR session and is pleased to congratulate your country for its excellent record on the protection and promotion of Human Rights both within the country and in the global arena.

We mark with satisfaction that on 2013 New Zealand celebrated the 120th anniversary of the Right to Vote for Women. Your championship with regard to Human Rights and your deep rooted democratic beliefs are the true promoters of prosperity, social development, peace and stability that citizens of your country enjoy without prejudice to their ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

Albania commends NZ multicultural identity and its strong commitment to respect and safeguard diversity, as well as include people of all backgrounds in every chain of civil society, public and political life. Minorities, women, disabled persons, migrants, children... they all find in NZ a responsible state which protects, supports and acts in the best of interest for its people.

In this framework we welcome the new welfare reform introduced by the government which aims to redress socio-economic disparities and inequalities, as well as assist individuals and families in need, with a special focus on marginalised communities and vulnerable groups such as children.

New Zealand's successful story inspires progress and promotes respect for Human Rights as the core values of democracy. Therefore, we have nothing else to add but to encourage this country to continue protecting and safeguarding its achievements and wish it further success in the future.

Thank you Mr. President.