

**Zealand's 2<sup>nd</sup> Universal Periodic Review**  
**Minister's Intervention Remarks**

27 January 2014

[10 minutes]

[920 words]

Mr President and distinguished representatives.

I would like to start by addressing the topic of ethnic affairs and immigration in New Zealand. This is a area which I have personally been engaged with in my years as Minister for Ethnic Affairs. I would also like to address the advance questions from Czech Republic and Mexico in relation to recent Immigration Amendment Act and strategies for supporting migrant workers, respectively.

For a small country with a bi-cultural foundation, New Zealand is highly diverse. We are now home to 213 different ethnicities and over 120 languages.

Building the capability of our ethnic communities to participate in all aspects of New Zealand life is very important to us. In 2013, the Office of Ethnic Affairs ran successful workshops and training programmes for ethnic leaders, women and youth. These programmes are designed to develop leaders who can be the agents for change in their own communities and in our wider community. These initiatives will be expanded further in 2014.

One of my priorities as the Minister for Ethnic Affairs is to make government services easier for people of different ethnicities to access. We have a national telephone interpreting service called *Language Line*. Telephone interpreting sessions are offered in 44

different languages and on average there are more than 1,000 requests for the service every week.

As Minister for Ethnic Affairs, I host a series of annual events at Parliament such as Chinese New Year, Eid and Diwali, and I attend many community events throughout the year. These events are an opportunity to acknowledge the important social and economic contribution our diverse communities make to society.

The recent Immigration Amendment Act deals with the event of an illegal mass arrival on New Zealand shores. New Zealand recognises that the irregular movement of refugees, asylum seekers and people smuggling are significant issues globally and in our region. We are committed to the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Bali Process and New Zealand is one of only a small number of countries with UNHCR annual refugee quota.

Our settlement strategy for new migrants also covers migrants coming to New Zealand to work. The aims of the Strategy are for newcomer migrants to: feel welcomed, accepted, and respected; obtain employment appropriate to their skills; be supported to confidently communicate in English; access information and responsive services; maintain their cultural identities; feel safe; and accept, respect, and contribute to the New Zealand way of life.

Mr President I would now like to move onto the topic of victims of crime. The Government is committed to reducing victimisation and improving support services to victims of crime.

In 2011 we established the Victims' Centre in the Ministry of Justice to oversee victims' rights and services, provide information to people who work with victims, and improve the coordination of services. We are currently exploring how we can improve the services provided by the Centre.

The Victims of Crime Reform Bill is currently before Parliament. This Bill will strengthen the rights of all victims. It allows for the creation of a victims code which will outline victim's rights and services, complaints processes, and duties of justice sector agencies.

Another new piece of legislation is the Victim's Orders against Violent Offenders, which will create a new non-contact order to protect victims of sexual and serious violent offences. The order recognises the ongoing effects serious offending has on victims and will impose stringent conditions on the offender that prohibits contact with the victim.

We recognise that we cannot legislate away the pain and suffering faced by victims of crime. The New Zealand Government is however committed to providing them with support, and ensuring they are treated justly.

Mr President I would now like to address the topic of anti-corruption. As I noted in my opening address, New Zealand has a commitment to upholding the rule of law, combating corruption, and promoting access to justice for all New Zealanders.

As a part of this commitment, I will soon be introducing the Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Bill into Parliament. This Bill will increase the effectiveness of the way we combat money laundering, identity crime, and human trafficking. The Bill will also strengthen New Zealand's anti-corruption framework, and improve New Zealand's ability to assist other countries in criminal investigations and proceedings.

The Bill improves New Zealand's compliance with United Nations' conventions including the Convention against Corruption. It creates new offences to criminalise the acceptance of bribes by foreign public officials and the acceptance of bribes in return for using one's influence over a public official. It also ensures that current bribery offences can apply to bribes given in relation to international aid, and increases penalties for bribery and corruption in the private sector. Following enactment of the Bill, I am pleased to announce New Zealand will be in a position to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The Bill improves our compliance with the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime by clarifying the money laundering offence to ensure the prosecution need not prove intent to conceal.

The Bill also improves New Zealand's compliance with the United Nations Anti-Trafficking Protocol by clarifying the human trafficking offence to ensure all instances of exploitative human trafficking can be prosecuted even when the person is transported across borders.

Our domestic and international work on anti-corruption reflects our goal to be proactive, and avoid complacency in areas where we have a very positive record.

I thank the representatives of the member states for their direct and challenging questions so far.