



21st session, Human Rights Council
2nd Universal Periodic Review of Guinea-Bissau

Delivered by First Secretary Jarrod Clyne

23 January 2015

Thank you, Mr President.

New Zealand **recognises** the progress made in the advancement of human rights since Guinea-Bissau's elections in May 2014, as witnessed by the New Zealand election observation mission.

New Zealand **commends** Guinea-Bissau's efforts in restoring democracy and the rule of law, and encourages the continued strengthening of democratic institutions and security sector reform. New Zealand welcomes continued international support for Guinea-Bissau, including through the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

New Zealand **encourages** Guinea-Bissau to work towards accountability for political violence that took place during the April 2013 coup d'état. Open access to justice is a necessary step in accountability and New Zealand **recommends** further action to ensure court services are available in all regions and fees are not prohibitive.

Thank you