



NZ statement Kiribati [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
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Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to engage with Kiribati on its human rights situation and we thank the delegation for its comprehensive national report.

We congratulate the Government of Kiribati on introducing legislation this year to criminalise domestic violence. However, we share the Kiribati Government's concern about the high levels of domestic violence that are continuing, particularly against women and children. New Zealand recommends that the Government of Kiribati pursue preventative measures such as community education and police training. We recommend further work be undertaken to ensure that the law is adequate to prosecute cases involving domestic violence and that such laws are properly enforced through, for example, increased police capacity-building and the appointment of female officers. We also recommend the Government promote and support the participation of women in decision-making at all levels.

New Zealand welcomes the recent decision by the Government and Parliament of Kiribati to oppose any introduction of the death penalty. We commend the Government for its decision to hold public consultations, which revealed overwhelming opposition from community groups. We recommend the Government of Kiribati conduct a wider review of its penal code in assessing its effectiveness to address domestic violence cases.

We note that Kiribati is yet to finalise its periodic reports on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. We recommend the Government of Kiribati complete the CEDAW reports before the due date in 2015.

Thank you Mr President

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