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Mr President,

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

We congratulate the Marshall Islands on ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities this year.

New Zealand **recommends** that the Marshall Islands ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

New Zealand **recommends** that the Marshall Islands ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

There is evidence that violence against women is an ongoing problem in the Marshall Islands. New Zealand **recommends** that the Marshall Islands introduce a national plan of action to combat violence against women. Furthermore, New Zealand offers to share its own experiences in dealing with domestic violence.

Thank you Mr President.