



Human Rights Council
23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Nauru

Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich

3 November 2015

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from the Republic of Nauru to the Human Rights Council, and recognises the commitments undertaken by small island developing states in engaging in these processes. While there have been encouraging developments in the Nauru, we remain concerned about the continued suspension of Opposition Members of Parliament in Nauru and the resultant denial of political representation to their constituents.

New Zealand is also concerned about the level of access for international media to Nauru. New Zealand **recommends** that Nauru allow international media organisations increased access, including through a reduction of prohibitively expensive visa fees.

We are aware that restrictions have been placed on entry to, and exit from, Nauru for Opposition MPs, lawyers and NGOs. We **recommend** that Nauru allow the courts, or another politically independent body, to hear final appeals against the cancellation or denial of passports, visas or other Nauruan travel documents.

While New Zealand commends Nauru's decision to change the Regional Processing Centre from a closed to an open centre, there are ongoing reports of difficulties experienced by asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. New Zealand therefore **recommends** that Nauru ensure that asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants, particularly unaccompanied minors and children, are given all necessary protection and social support.

New Zealand furthermore **recommends** that Nauru meet obligatory reporting requirements for conventions to which Nauru is a party and extend invitations to relevant working groups and special rapporteurs to visit Nauru.

New Zealand **recommends** that Nauru ratify the following international conventions: the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We wish Nauru a successful review.

Thank you Mr President.