



24th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Human Rights Council

Palau

Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich

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Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Palau to the Human Rights Council, and recognises that small island developing states have undertaken significant commitments in engaging on these processes. There have been encouraging developments in Palau, such as Palau's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013. However there are still some areas for further progress.

Palau signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2011 but has yet to ratify these two foundational human rights treaties. New Zealand **recommends** that Palau ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Palau has legislation prohibiting and punishing violent behaviour, but has no legislation that specifically addresses domestic violence. New Zealand **recommends** that Palau enact legislation to directly address the prevention of and protection against domestic violence. Furthermore, New Zealand offers to share with Palau its own experiences in addressing domestic violence.

With respect to Palau signing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2011, New Zealand **recommends** that Palau ratify this important treaty.

Thank you Mr President.