



Human Rights Council
24th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Singapore

Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich

27 January 2016

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Singapore to the Human Rights Council. There have been encouraging developments in Singapore, and New Zealand **commends** Singapore for acceding to the Disabilities Convention in 2013.

New Zealand **acknowledges** the progress Singapore has made in allowing judges to exercise discretion in imposing the death penalty in some cases. New Zealand **recommends**, however, that Singapore go further and abandon its use of the death penalty.

Further, New Zealand **recommends** that Singapore cease the use of caning as a form of punishment and **recommends** that Singapore accede to the Convention Against Torture.

New Zealand also **recommends** that Singapore ensure that freedom of opinion and expression are encouraged and protected, including for individuals and organisations communicating via online public platforms.

We wish Singapore a successful review.

Thank you Mr President,