



Human Rights Council
24th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Solomon Islands
Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich
25 January 2016

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Solomon Islands to the Human Rights Council, and recognises the commitment that small island developing states demonstrate in engaging in these processes. While there have been encouraging developments in Solomon Islands, such as the Government's commitment to streamline human rights reporting and improve interagency coordination, we note that Solomon Islands continues to have one of the highest rates of violence against women and children in the world.

In that light, New Zealand **recommends** that Solomon Islands increase its efforts to address violence against women and children as an urgent priority. This includes fully implementing the Family Protection Act and providing necessary resourcing to ensure that vulnerable women and children have access to both safe dwellings, and to mechanisms of justice. We also encourage Solomon Islands to engage with communities, villages, families, churches, and all levels of Government, to ensure that violence against women and children is considered to be culturally unacceptable.

Participation by women in government leadership roles remains low in Solomon Islands. New Zealand **recommends** that Solomon Islands take further steps to increase participation by women in parliament, and in government leadership positions, including through further consideration of Temporary Special Measures.

In addition, New Zealand **recommends** that Solomon Islands ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty.

Finally, New Zealand **recommends** that Solomon Islands take steps to establish an independent national human rights institution.

Thank you Mr President