



**Human Rights Council**  
**25<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**  
**Papua New Guinea**  
**Delivered by First Secretary Jarrod Clyne**  
**6 May 2015**

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Papua New Guinea and notes Papua New Guinea's efforts to improve health services and provide tuition fee free education since its last UPR. New Zealand also **commends** Papua New Guinea on being the first country to formally submit its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

New Zealand notes Papua New Guinea's commitment at the 1<sup>st</sup> UPR to have an operational national human rights institution by 2012 and that this is not yet in place. New Zealand **recommends** that without further delay Papua New Guinea take all necessary steps to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and return support to the Ombudsman Commission.

Papua New Guinea continues to face serious challenges with violence. New Zealand **recommends** that Papua New Guinea focus on eliminating violence and creating safe places for victims of gender-based, sorcery related, and sexual violence. Further New Zealand **recommends** that all complaints of violence perpetrated or facilitated by the security forces, are fully investigated and that suspects are brought before the Courts in a timely manner.

Further work is also needed to improve the representation of women in Parliament. New Zealand **recommends** that Papua New Guinea continue to improve the representation of women in Parliament at both national and local levels.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Papua New Guinea continue to be victims of abuse, stigmatisation and discrimination. New Zealand **recommends** that Papua New Guinea decriminalise sexual relations between consenting adults of the same

sex and amend national legislation to include sexual orientation and gender as prohibited grounds for discrimination.

Finally, New Zealand **recommends** that Papua New Guinea repeal all provisions in domestic law allowing for the death penalty and establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

We wish the delegation a successful review.

Thank you Mr President.