



25th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Human Rights Council

Samoa

Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich

2 May 2016

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Samoa, and notes encouraging developments in Samoa since its last UPR. New Zealand **commends**, for example, Samoa on the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution as part of the Office of the Ombudsman in 2013. New Zealand also **commends** Samoa on the passing of the *Family Safety Act* in 2013 and the *Crimes Act* in 2013.

New Zealand **commends** Samoa on the positive progress to increase participation by women in parliament and in government leadership positions for example with the introduction of representation mechanisms for women in the National Legislative Assembly.

However, we note that further work is required to ensure adequate legal and policy protection for people with disabilities. While New Zealand **commends** Samoa's signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014, New Zealand **recommends** Samoa ratify and implement the CRPD.

Furthermore, consistent with our 2011 recommendation, New Zealand **recommends** Samoa to take steps to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Finally, we note that further work is needed in the area of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. New Zealand **recommends** that Samoa take steps to address inequalities affecting human rights in the area of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

We wish the delegation a successful review.

Thank you Mr President.