Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation of Cuba.

We commend the legislative changes made to the Family Code, including the legalisation of same sex marriage.

New Zealand **recommends** that Cuba:

1. Take measures to ensure that all people can exercise their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association, [in line with Cuba’s international obligations];
2. Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience who have been imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly;
3. Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR; and
4. Continue efforts to remove internet access restrictions to guarantee the right to access information.

We wish Cuba every success in its review.

Thank you Mr President.