

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY GHANA DURING THE 46TH SESSION**

**OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP, ON 29TH APRIL, 2024**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF NEW ZEALAND**

 Thank you, Mr. President.

2. Ghana welcomes the delegation of New Zealand to the 4th UPR cycle and appreciates New Zealand’s bold efforts geared towards sustainable development.

3. We are particularly pleased that the Government of New Zealand has prioritized consistent and regular reporting to human rights treaty bodies as an important accountability mechanism necessary for ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights.

4. We have also taken a positive note of the several progressive policies and strategies adopted by the Government of New Zealand, which are aimed at increasing economic participation and enhancing employment outcomes for all segments of the New Zealand population. These include launch of the Employment Strategy in 2019 and the subsequent improvements to the strategy in 2022. As we all know, descent jobs and the right to work are all critical to improving livelihoods and maintaining social cohesion.

5. We further welcome the introduction of a ‘Zero Carbon’ framework into the Climate Change laws in New Zealand in support of global efforts to help limit the damaging effects of temperature rise.

6. Ghana also considers as exemplary, the establishment of a Ministry dedicated to the affairs of persons with disability, which would undoubtedly help drive government policy aimed at addressing social and economic inequities, as well as provide equal opportunities and accessibility for people living with disabilities and their families.

7. In the spirit of constructive dialogue, Ghana offers the following recommendations to New Zealand. [We specifically encourage the government to],

1. intensify the implementation of measures to promote the integration of migrants and refugees, including addressing persisting concerns about structural biases against them in the health sector;
2. continue with efforts to strengthen national strategies and policies to combat trafficking in persons; and
3. prioritize sexual and reproductive health education among young adults to address the incidence of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

8. Ghana wishes New Zealand a successful review process.

I thank you.