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Thank you Mr President.

Excellencies, representatives of the United Nations, and distinguished members of the Troika.

New Zealand would like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for the constructive engagement in our fourth Universal Periodic Review.

I’d like to reiterate my country’s strong commitment to the UPR process. We look forward to consulting with a broad range of stakeholders as we consider all recommendations received, and continue to work to advance human rights in New Zealand.

New Zealand has a strong, continuing commitment to human rights and the rule of law, as was expressed by our head of delegation, the Honourable Paul Goldsmith, Minister of Justice. As the Minister noted, there have been many achievements in the area of human rights since our last UPR, and we acknowledge that there is further progress to be made. While no country has a perfect record, we are proud of our contributions, nationally and internationally, to human rights. We look forward to engaging with you all to continue to better protect and promote human rights in New Zealand and around the world.

With regard to the recommendations, New Zealand wishes to reserve its position on all recommendations received until the 57th session of this Council, to allow us to engage in robust consultations with all government and other stakeholders.

I would also like to express our deep gratitude to the members of the Troika - Argentina, Bangladesh and Morocco – for their efficient and hard work on the Working Group report.

We also thank the UPR Secretariat for their support throughout this process.

We look forward continuing to work with all stakeholders to advance human rights both domestically in New Zealand, as well as internationally.

I thank you.