**NZ UPR**

**29 April 2024, 9 am**

1.5 mins

Talofa lava,

Samoa warmly welcomes the Minister of Justice, Hon Paul Goldsmith and esteemed delegation. We commend NZ’s wide outreach with stakeholders, civil society and local communities for the preparation of their report. We applaud the establishment of the interministerial human rights mechanism and look forward to learn from the NZ experience. Since the third UPR, NZ has notably strengthened climate legislation, as well, legislation protecting workers, and addressing sexual violence.

We continue to acknowledge NZ’s humanitarian support to the Pacific in response to COVID-19, and specifically to Samoa during the 2019 measles epidemic.

As a neighbour and close partner in the region, Samoa would like to recommend the following,

1. Implement recommendations from the MIBE review of the RSE scheme, in collaboration with the Pacific countries, to ensure workers’ wellbeing including pastoral care, health, accommodation, wages and appropriate deductions.
2. Continue to implement and strengthen measures to eliminate family and sexual violence.
3. Enhance community resilience to climate change through awareness raising and capacity building initiatives.
4. Ensure equitable access to healthcare including mental health, for Māori and Pasifika communities.
5. Encourage to consider, including Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau in the Universal Periodic Review process

We wish NZ every success in the UPR.

I thank you