|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description: Description: Description: C:\Users\amessent\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\MN1HAVZZ\Brand NZ-no agency High Res.jpg | **Human Rights Council**  **40th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**  **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**  **Delivered by Permanent Representative Lucy Duncan 25 January 2022** |

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the participation of Venezuela today. New Zealand remains seriously concerned human rights in Venezuela have worsened since its last UPR.

New Zealand **recommends** Venezuela return to the negotiating table to continue discussions towards a peaceful, democratic and negotiated solution to the current crisis.

New Zealand **recommends** Venezuela ensure respect for democratic rights such as freedom of assembly and expression, and full participation in electoral processes by all parties.

New Zealand **recommends** Venezuela address the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls.

New Zealand **recommends** Venezuela cease the repression of independent Venezuelan civil society.

Thank you.