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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.