New Zealand Statement for Brunei Darussalam Universal Periodic Review

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Brunei Darussalam to the Council and appreciates the opportunity to engage on human rights, acknowledging work it has done since its last UPR.

New Zealand notes with concern Brunei Darussalam’s recent full implementation of its Syariah Penal Code Order 2013 and the impact this may have on a broad range of human rights.

New Zealand is opposed to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances. New Zealand acknowledges Brunei Darussalam’s long standing de facto moratorium and acknowledges the announcement that it will extend this to syariah cases.

New Zealand **recommends** the Government declare an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty under both syariah and common law, as a step towards its eventual abolition.

New Zealand also opposes cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishments, and in this regard welcomes the Sultan’s recent commitment to ratify the Convention against Torture (UNCAT). New Zealand **recommends** Brunei Darussalam ratify UNCAT and amends all laws and punishments to be consistent with the Convention.

New Zealand is also opposed to all forms of discrimination, including based on sexual orientation, gender identity or religion and belief.New Zealand **recommends** the review and rescinding of any laws that contravene Brunei Darussalam’s obligations under CEDAW, CRC and CRPD, or that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or religion.

Thank you Mr President