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Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the participation of Norway today.

New Zealand commends Norway’s human rights record and the importance the Norwegian government attaches to fulfilling its human rights obligations.

New Zealand welcomes Norway’s focus on integrated employment opportunities for immigrants. New Zealand **recommends** that Norway adopts the recommendation of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe to adopt the new comprehensive action plan on integration including measurable objectives to monitor progress.

New Zealand **recommends** that Norway continues to strengthen efforts to combat domestic and sexual violence. New Zealand commends Norway’s recognition of its ongoing challenge in this area, with more incidents being reported.

New Zealand welcomes Norway’s 2016 plan to step up efforts against and to improve care for, children exposed to violence and abuse, and **recommends** Norway adopt the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination’s recommendation to develop a specific action plan for violence against women, including Sami victims of violence.

New Zealand highlights the importance of protecting the rights of the indigenous Sami people of Northern Norway, and **recommends** that the Government implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to take measures to improve the legal framework for Sami land, fishing and reindeer rights.

Thank you Mr President.