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New Zealand welcomes the participation by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Universal Periodic Review.

New Zealand **commends** Iran for progress made in citizenship rights for children of Iranian mothers married to foreign fathers and **recommends** it continue to reform the penal and civil laws to ensure non-discrimination against women and girls.

New Zealand notesthe decline in the number of executions in 2018, but remains very **concerned** that Iran continues to use the death penalty, especially for minors. New Zealand **recommends** that Iran cease immediately the use of the death penalty, especially for those under the age of 18 years at the time of offending.

We **recommend** that Iran take measures to protect religious and ethnic minorities and ensure their full and equal participation in public and private life.

New Zealand further **recommends** that Iran take steps to encourage freedom of expression; ensuring that human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists are not subjected to intimidation or arbitrary arrest in connection with their work.

New Zealand also **recommends** that Iran take measures of protection against violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

We **recommend** Iran accept a visit by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran.

Thank you.