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| 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****36th Session of the Universal Periodic Review** **The Republic of the Marshall Islands****Delivered by Acting Permanent Representative Charlotte Darlow** **9 November 2020** |

Madame President

New Zealand welcomes this opportunity for dialogue with the Republic of the Marshall Islands on its human rights record.

New Zealand **welcomes** the scoping work done by the Marshall Islands to determine the feasibility of establishing a National Human Rights Institution, and **recommends** that the Marshall Islands continue to advance this work.

New Zealand **recommends** that the Government increase efforts to investigate and prosecute people traffickers, and proactively adopt measures to identify and support victims of trafficking.

New Zealand **recommends** thatthe Marshall Islands approve comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation including protections from discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity.

New Zealand **commends** the Marshall Islands for the steps it has taken to improve gender equality, including the implementation of legislation and policies to ensure non-discrimination in employment, to promote women in leadership, as well as the introduction of legislation to better address the issue of violence against women and girls. We **recommend** that the Marshall Islands further develop policies and implement measures to reduce the violence against women and girls.

New Zealand **recognises** the progress the Republic of the Marshall Islands has made to protect the rights of people with disabilities, and **recommends** that the Marshall Islands continues to explore the proposal to introduce protections against discrimination under the constitution.

[New Zealand would like to **acknowledge** the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights in its role as a member of the Human Rights Council since January 2020.]

Thank you Madame President.