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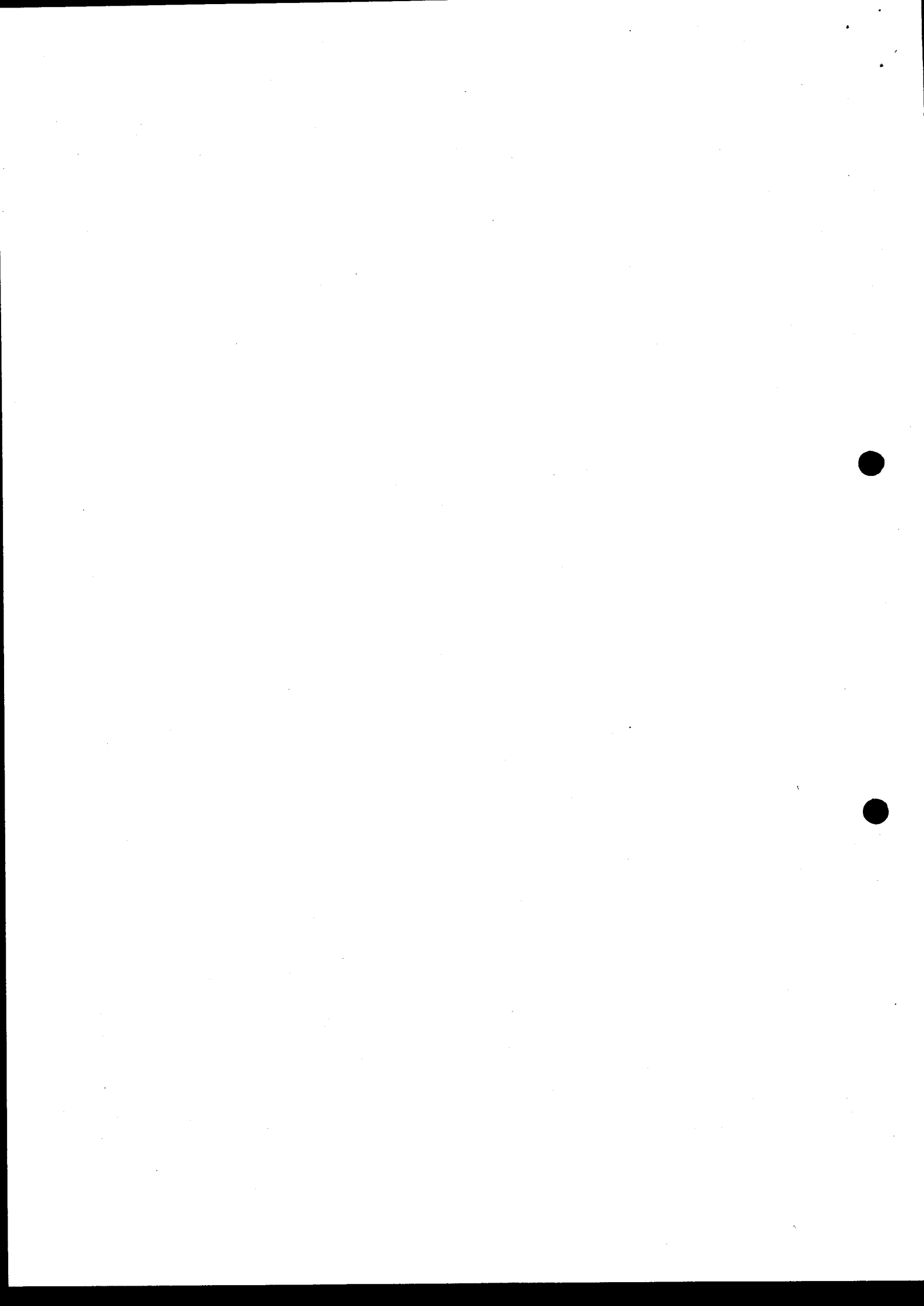
REPUBLIC OF NAURU

Statement by HE Ms Marlene Moses
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations

17th Session of the Human Rights Council

Presentation of the State Response to the
Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Nauru
7 June 2011

(Check Against Delivery)



Mr President

Omo Yoran

It is my privilege to present, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Nauru, our State response to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) conducted on 24 January 2011. Before I begin, I take this opportunity to introduce to you the other member of my delegation; Ms Barina Waqa the Principal Legal Officer with the Department of Justice and Border Control.

Nauru welcomes the recommendations made following the presentation of its national report to the UPR Working Group, and has given all recommendations careful consideration. My country is committed to promoting human rights for its people and continues to participate in both domestic and international fora with the aim of achieving these objectives. However constrained, we endeavour to realise measures proposed to address concerns highlighted by States.

The UPR process has enabled Nauru to review its human rights situation and engage stakeholders and members of the international community with shared objectives. Our commitment is reaffirmed through Nauru's acceptance of the majority of the recommendations. We however find ourselves financially constrained and lacking the necessary capacity to fully implement all of the recommended actions.

Those recommendations calling for ratification of or accession to international treaties that Nauru is presently unable to accept are simply beyond the national resources at this time. However, even where we are unable to become party to a convention, we do not ignore the international significance of these documents. Where appropriate, Nauru is willing to consider incorporation of fundamental principles into policy and legislation, while stopping short of ratification or accession.

Mr President

On a point of clarification I wish to advise that enquiries with the United Nations' Office of Legal Affairs have confirmed that the Office's earlier advice that Nauru had signed but not

yet ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was incorrect. The possibility of Nauru becoming a State Party to CEDAW remains a matter under active consideration.

Since the presentation of our State Report in January, I am pleased to announce that Parliament has passed the *Education Act 2011*. Under the Act, education is compulsory until the age of 18 years, new provisions for teacher registration have been introduced, standards and curriculum issues addressed, safety and security issues at schools promoted, the realisation of the education rights of students with disabilities upheld and many other positive changes pursued, in order to ensure the provision of decent education for the children and young people of Nauru.

In other legislative actions, the Nauru Parliament has also passed the *Passports Act 2011*, which includes, among other things, provision for the issue of travel documents for refugees.

Mr President

The Government of Nauru remains conscious of the fact that laws alone do not resolve human rights concerns. Our endeavours represent a considerable undertaking for a small nation with significant challenges.

While in Geneva this January, my delegation took the opportunity to inspect the offices and facilities at the newly-opened Commonwealth Small States office. We are encouraged by what has been made available and will continue to engaged with the Commonwealth Secretariat and donors as to the possibility of establishing a small permanent mission in Geneva in future.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the President of the Human Rights Council and Member States for all recommendations proposed to Nauru. The involvement of observer States and non-government agencies has been invaluable. We call upon the international community to assist us in our efforts to further progress human rights circumstances.

Mr President

In conclusion I reiterate my Government's firm commitment to improving and realising human rights for the people of Nauru. As we slowly recover from recent financial turmoil we envisage progress on the human rights situation in Nauru and look forward to working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders at all levels towards a better future for our people

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