

Human Rights Council

17th Session

Item 6: UPR Nauru

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Speaker: Joshua Cooper EIP OceaniaHR

Mr. President

EIP is encouraged by the participation of Nauru in the UPR procedure. We are in agreement with many states for Nauru to meet its obligations under international human rights law regarding reporting including engaging with civil society to produce its state report to ratified treaty bodies such as the UN Human Rights Committee. More importantly, we pledge our support to assist in drafting required reports for the UN human rights treaty bodies and conducting national consultations with civil society to produce reports including all the voices of Nauru. We will assist in the ICCPR process as well as the CEDAW and CRC regarding periodic reports. We also encourage Nauru to reverse its position on ratification on the core international human rights treaty bodies such as the ICESCR, ICERD and ICRMW. We also believe the ILO Conventions would also add considerable consideration to measure and monitor the human rights record for its citizens in an age of globalization.

We note the significant contribution of the UN special procedures to provide insight into the issues facing island states. We are pleased Nauru accepts the recommendation to issue an open invitation for the UN special rapporteurs to assist in advising on potential revisions of existing laws and drafting of new laws to ensure equality for all in Nauru. We will actively participate to share expertise in engaging with the UN special rapporteurs and to implement ideas generated through the visit by the expert to the government.

We are also monitoring the positive movements to promote and protect human rights in Oceania. The recent initiative in Palau serves as a model to Nauru to create a National Human Rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. We are pleased that Nauru accepts the recommendation and are willing to partner to provide assistance in this endeavor. In the spirit of recommendation 98, we look forward to participate in the partnership among Pacific Island States to address human rights issues.

The focus of human rights education is essential to create a culture of democracy and dignity. We encourage Nauru to create a national curriculum for human rights education in all levels of education including popular community classes to bring the principles of peace into existence in the islands. A potential positive partnership through EIP including the University of Hawaii and the East = West Center to draft and deliver models to educators can be created together.

The Pacific is one of the only remaining regions to create a regional human rights mechanism of a commission or court. We are aware of the dedication of many NGOs in the region to initiate a dialogue and encourage Nauru to provide a leadership role in the creation of regional human rights bodies in the Pacific.

While there are many human rights issues that require attention, the potential impact of climate change on the peoples of Nauru is one of the most dire situations. The fundamental right of self-determination in the future is connected to the looming climate crisis. Currently, climate change is already having an adverse impact in relation to the right to water and food. We can share our experience in Oceania to develop a rights-based approach to challenges posed by climate change. We believe the recent conference on Threatened Island Nations at Columbia Law School sponsored by the Marshall Islands last month is an important move forward to guarantee human rights in Nauru. We encourage Nauru's involvement.

We are pleased with the general acceptance of many recommendations including the engagement of civil society. Please offer insight into the strategy to include civil society in the followup to the UPR as well as the core human rights instruments.

We support the recommendation of member states to provide technical assistance to realize the recommendations agreed to by Nauru leading up to the adoption. We extend our hand of cooperation to promote and protect human rights through training, teaching and tangible projects to change living conditions of the people of Nauru.

Mahalo

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