

International Association for Democracy in Africa

UPR of Nauru

Mr. President,

Nauru has a democratic governance structure, which includes a unicameral parliament, elected representatives, and recognition of civil liberties. Freedom House accords Nauru the highest rating for being based on representation and free elections. The government generally respects religious freedom in law and in practice with no reports of abuses.

Economic growth in Nauru is estimated to have been slower than forecast in financial year 2015, but is projected to exceed the forecast in financial year 2016. The economy of Nauru grew strongly in 2014, boosted by the reopening of Australia's Regional Processing Centre for asylum seekers, and the liquidation of the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust.

Nauru's economy is entirely dependent on its dwindling phosphate deposits. The government recognises that diversification of the country's economy is the way forward, and since diversification necessitates skills development, education is a national priority.

The Ministry of Education and Training is responsible for equal and easy access to free education and training to provide for the development and growth of Nauru. As part of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), the Nauru Education and Training Reform Package combats declining literacy and numeracy rates and attempts to improve primary and secondary school attendance, as well as establishing the National Curriculum Committee, the National Moderation Committee and the Curriculum, Accreditation Statistics and Exams Unit (CASE). The Ministry is in the process of implementing a new Nauruan-based curriculum with programmes in life skills, culture, language, TVET and traditional subject areas of English, Maths, Science and Social Sciences.

The Constitution of Nauru affords women formal equality before the law. There is little documentation of domestic violence against women and children and published crime statistics are not disaggregated by victim's gender. Through a number of measures, Nauru government has been striving for women's empowerment. UN Women is helping to better inform decision-makers at national and local government levels by providing them with technical assistance in producing knowledge products that include improved and comparable evidence on women's economic situation in Nauru. Increasing Community Resilience through Empowerment of Women to Address Climate Change and Natural Hazards (IREACH) Programme is a UN Women program that supports the incorporation of gender dimensions in strategic documents for disaster risk management and climate change through the provision of knowledge products and tools on the gendered implications of climate change and disasters. *Thank, M.K.*

Government concerns about health have led to programs of intervention, including encouraging more sports and physical activity by young people. Attempts are being made to reduce the high rate of road accidents, particularly among male motor-cyclists. High alcohol use also is being addressed by educational programs. Two hospitals exist on the island. One is run by the government for Naurans and a separate facility is run by the Nauru Phosphate Corporation for its contract workers.