

## Annex A: International obligations

[See NZHRC Recommendations 40-46 in Annex D]

### Treaties

1. Since its last UPR, the Government has ratified the Optional Protocols for a communications procedure under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Arms Trade Treaty. However, it rejected most of the other recommendations made during the second UPR cycle to ratify a range of other treaties and optional protocols, and to withdraw its existing treaty reservations.

### Development Assistance

2. New Zealand accepted three recommendations at its last UPR to increase official development assistance to the internationally agreed level of 0.7 percent of GNI.<sup>i</sup> The Government has not met this target. In 2018, it announced an increase in development funding to 0.28 of GNI, up from 0.23 percent in 2017, as part of the Government's "Pacific Reset" strategy to redefine New Zealand's relationship with Pacific Island countries.

### Sustainable Development Goals and Data

3. While the Government has expressed its commitment to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is yet to announce any specific policy or data strategy for that purpose. New Zealand is also yet to contribute a Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF), although the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has recently requested that New Zealand be inscribed on the list of countries participating in VNRs at the 2019 HLPF.<sup>ii</sup>
4. More generally, recent initiatives indicate a movement by the Government towards a more holistic approach to measuring social, economic and environmental outcomes. The June 2018 *Treasury Living Standards Dashboard: Monitoring Intergenerational Wellbeing* proposes to introduce a monitoring mechanism to measure four "capital stocks" (physical, financial, human and social) that underpin inter-generational well-being.<sup>iii</sup>
5. While Statistics NZ's data collection practices are comprehensive and robust, data is not always collected or disaggregated in a manner that enables the accurate monitoring of human rights outcomes. UN treaty bodies have recommended improved practices,<sup>iv</sup> including that the Government consider applying the conceptual and methodological framework set out by the OHCHR.<sup>v</sup>

### Business and Human Rights

6. The Government is yet to endorse or recognise in any formal sense the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), despite recent policy positions contemplating greater use of out-sourcing in the social sector.<sup>vi</sup>
7. Awareness of the UNGPs among New Zealand businesses, particularly among some large multi-nationals, appears to be growing. The Commission considers that the Government should take the

opportunity to work with the business community to further promote and encourage uptake of the UNGPs across the public and private sectors.

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<sup>i</sup> New Zealand National Plan of Action, UPR Recommendation 48 (Tunisia), 49 (Bangladesh), 50 (Egypt)

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[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18585Letter\\_New\\_Zealand\\_to\\_ECOSOC\\_president\\_VNR\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18585Letter_New_Zealand_to_ECOSOC_president_VNR_2019.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> *Treasury Living Standards Dashboard: Monitoring Intergenerational Wellbeing*, Conal Smith, June 2018

<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2018-06/smith-living-standards-dashboard-jun18.pdf>. In parallel, the Commission understands that Statistics NZ will develop a sustainable development measurement framework for New Zealand aligned with Treasury's Living Standards framework and framed around the Conference of European Statisticians capital stocks model

<sup>iv</sup> UN CPRD Committee, CRPD/C/NZL/CO/1, 3 October 2014 at 69, CRC Committee CRC/C/NZL/CO/5, 21 October 2016 at 10(a)-(c),

<sup>v</sup> OHCHR, *Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation*

[www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Human\\_rights\\_indicators\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Human_rights_indicators_en.pdf)

<sup>vi</sup> The Commission has encouraged the Government to explicitly recognise and apply UNGP principles and processes – such as human rights due diligence assessments – in procurement and delegation/out-sourcing agreements with the private sector – see Submission on the Child, Young Persons and their Families (Age-Settings, Workforce and Advocacy) Bill [https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/4914/7251/5496/HRC\\_Submission\\_on\\_CYPF\\_AWAS\\_Amendment\\_Bill\\_2016.pdf](https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/4914/7251/5496/HRC_Submission_on_CYPF_AWAS_Amendment_Bill_2016.pdf)