

Statement – Item 6

Thank you Madam President,

We encourage the 12 States whose outcome reports were adopted during HRC45 to not view the implementation of their UPR recommendations as a purely bureaucratic exercise, but rather an opportunity to embark on a democratic and participative process that engages all relevant stakeholders throughout the so-called ‘reporting-implementation-reporting cycle.’

In this regard, we would like to draw the Council’s attention to the landmark adoption earlier this year of the world’s first intergovernmental principles designed to guide States in the effective implementation of their international human rights obligations.

The Pacific Principles of Practice for effective national implementation are intended to ‘contribute to the global conversation on effective implementation of human rights obligations and development commitments’. They are the result of the 2019 Pacific Regional NMIRF Dialogue held in Nadi, Fiji and the subsequent regional process to elaborate a set of common Principles for NMIRFs.

They are based around three broad principles:

Firstly, that there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to NMIRFs;

Secondly, that NMIRFs should be permanent and established by the executive or legislature; and

Thirdly, that NMIRFs should be given a structure, mandate and sufficient resources to effectively coordinate and track the national implementation of human rights obligations and commitments and other overlapping frameworks.

Madam President,

It is hoped that the Pacific Principles will not only guide Pacific Island States in building world-class NMIRFs – mechanisms that will drive progress with human rights and the achievement of the SDGs – but that they will also inspire other regions to develop their own set of regional NMIRF principles to continue the positive momentum and bridge the implementation gap.