

New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations



Te Māngai o Aotearoa

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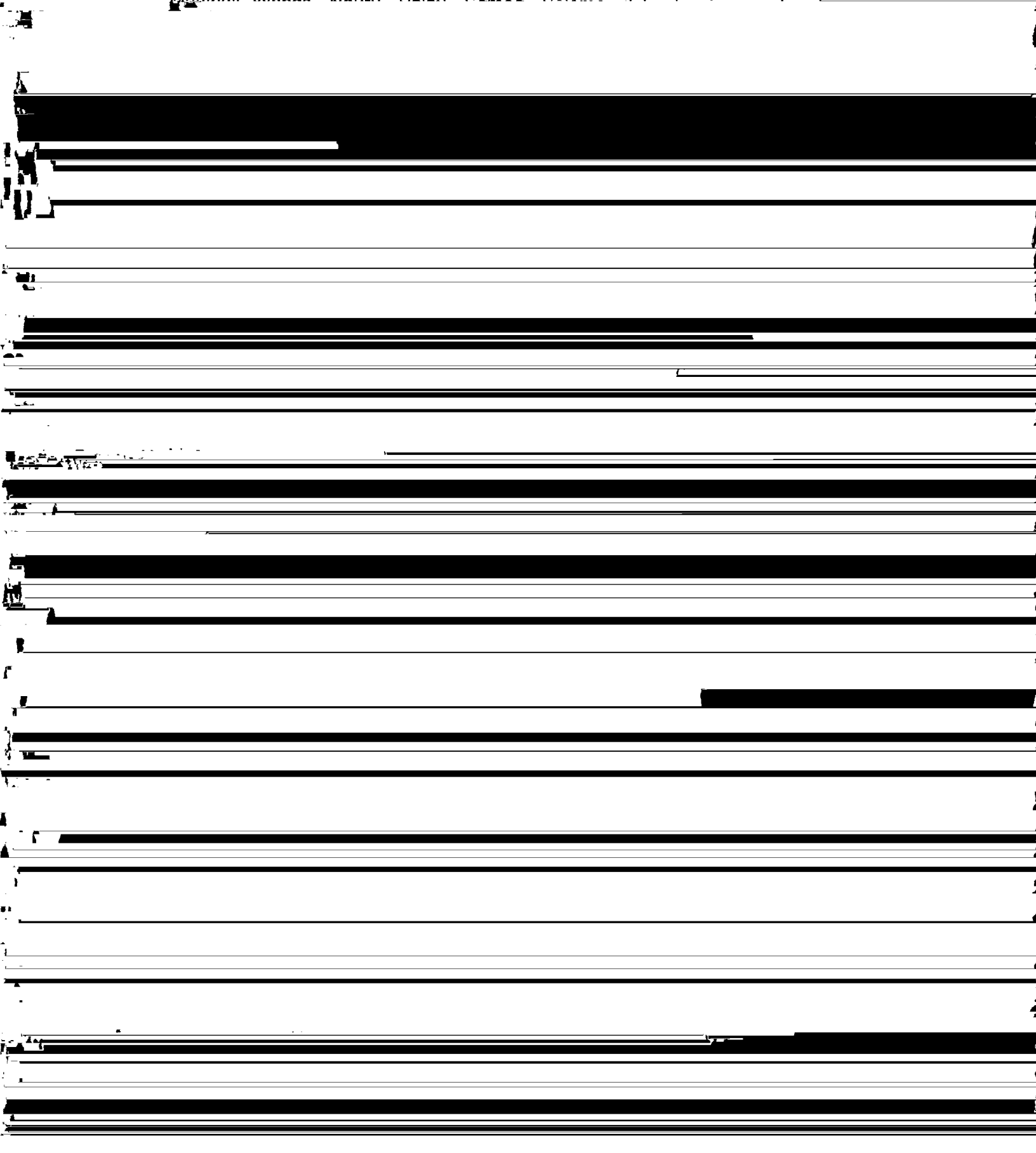
Item 56: Advancement of Women

Maternal Health and Human Rights

Statement by

**H.E. Rosemary Banks
New Zealand**

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum countries in New York, in particular the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and



Availability, quality and use of maternal health services, in particular emergency obstetric care, are important issues in the Pacific, especially where communities

enormous ocean areas.

Improved access to quality family planning and increased use and choice of

MATERNAL HEALTH IN THE PACIFIC

Although children's health and maternal health status in the Pacific has improved significantly in recent decades, maternal health remains a serious concern across the Pacific Island region.

Leading causes of maternal death are similar to those reported globally; post partum haemorrhage, preeclampsia, obstructed labour, puerperal sepsis and complications of unsafe abortion. Important direct causes include anaemia and malaria.

Safe motherhood has been recognized as a basic human right that is protected by a range of human rights treaties and laws. Policies and advocacy that support safe motherhood as a basic right of women (and consequently a condition) are essential.

In addition, attendees should also be made aware of the importance of child

registration as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and of the importance of
early and regular prenatal visits. In many Districts, the importance of prenatal visits is emphasized