

# Universal Periodic Review Stakeholder Submission for Nauru



An Islands Initiative to  
For the Promotion & Protection of  
International Human Rights in the Pacific

51st Session of UPR Working Group 4th Cycle

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## **UNU RCE Hawai‘i Moananuiākea:**

UNU-RCE Hawai‘i Moananuiākea is a Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development formally acknowledged by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). As part of the global UNU RCE Network, Hawai‘i Moananuiākea serves as a collaborative platform bringing together universities, schools, Indigenous communities, civil society organisations, local governments, and other partners across the Hawaiian Islands and the broader Moananuiākea region — the vast Pacific Ocean area that sustains Pacific Island peoples and cultures. The RCE focuses on weaving Indigenous knowledge systems with contemporary sustainability education to address critical challenges such as climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, cultural revitalisation, and youth empowerment.

Through locally rooted and globally connected initiatives, UNU-RCE Hawai‘i Moananuiākea works to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting transformative learning, community-led research, and partnerships that uplift Pacific Island priorities and place-based solutions. By facilitating knowledge sharing within the Pacific and across the global RCE network, the RCE helps strengthen local capacity to adapt to environmental change, protect cultural heritage, and inspire future generations to be stewards of their land and ocean. The RCE’s work embodies the vision of Moananuiākea as a living oceanic homeland that connects people, cultures, and sustainability efforts throughout the Pacific.

## **Oceania HR:**

Oceania HR is a regional civil society organisation dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights across the diverse island nations and communities of Oceania. We work to advance social justice, equality, and sustainable development by supporting grassroots movements, amplifying the voices of marginalised groups, and strengthening civil society capacity. Our network brings together community leaders, indigenous advocates, youth organisations, and policy experts to address pressing issues such as climate change, environmental justice, gender equality, indigenous rights, and democratic participation.

Through research, advocacy, and partnerships with local, regional, and international stakeholders, Oceania HR aims to ensure that the unique human rights challenges of the Pacific are visible and prioritised in global forums. By facilitating dialogue, providing capacity-building, and engaging directly with UN mechanisms like the Universal Periodic Review, we seek to hold states accountable to their human rights commitments while empowering communities to claim their rights and shape a more just and resilient future for the region.

## Key Recommendations and Questions for Nauru

### 1.

**Issue:** The realization of human rights in Nauru is extremely lacking. Nauru has one of the worst human rights record of ratification of international human rights treaty bodies. It is important for Nauru to dedicate resources and seek assistance in the ratification and implementation of the core human rights treaties.

**Question:** Will Nauru immediately ratify the remaining international human rights treaties? Will Nauru seek resources and partnerships to fulfill its obligation under the various treaties to protect human rights?

**Recommendation:** Nauru must build on its initial ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nauru should immediately ratify the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CERD, CEDAW and CMW. Nauru should partner with NGOs and also academic institutions in the region to develop a process to encourage national participation and also to implement the articles of the various human rights treaties.

### 2.

**Issue:** The Pacific is one of the remaining regions without a regional human rights mechanism. A regional perspective is an important element to fully realize human rights around the world.

**Question:** Will Nauru be a catalyst for change and encourage a process to create a regional human rights mechanism that reflect the value and vision of the people of the Pacific?

**Recommendation:** Nauru work in partnership with other Pacific Island States to create a regional human rights mechanism that allows for dialogue and determining a process that allows for discussion among all leaders in the region to ensure a mechanism that fosters freedom in the Pacific region.

### 3.

**Issue:** The challenges emerging from climate change in the Pacific is extremely alarming. The projected violations of human rights due to the impacts of climate change cause concern in the communities

**Question:** What will Nauru do to protect its citizens against human rights

violations taking place due to climate change?

**Recommendation:** The Nauru government work in partnership with UN agencies and states to adapt and mitigate to ensure the survival of the Nauru people. Nauru create a national plan of action that provides a human rights framework to address the challenges of climate change on the immediate and long term situations.