

UPR 14 - Republic of Korea – 25th October 2012

Oral Intervention by Ireland

Thank you Madam President,

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Korea and thanks them for their comprehensive presentation this afternoon. Ireland commends the Republic of Korea on its progress on implementing commitments made following the recommendations made during the first Universal Periodic Review held in May 2008. Ireland also wishes to express appreciation for the Republic of Korea's work on human rights issues at the UN, noting in particular their support for the treaty body strengthening process.

Ireland notes the lack of a universal birth registration system in the Republic of Korea. According to Article 7(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children should be registered immediately after birth. The lack of immediate registration may give rise to the phenomenon of children being secretly adopted between their birth and registration.

In view of its obligations as a State Party to the CRC since 1991, Ireland recommends that the Republic of Korea provide for a full system of universal birth registration including immediate registration upon birth regardless of the parent's nationality or status in the country.

In order to protect the rights of children to be adopted, Ireland also recommends that the Republic of Korea lift its reservation to article 21(a) of the CRC and that the Republic of Korea accede to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption.

Ireland notes the 2010 Survey on the Education Rights of Immigrant Children conducted by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, which estimated that there may be as many as 17,000 undocumented migrant children unable to access routine medical care and other basic services.

Ireland recommends that measures are taken to ensure that the children of undocumented migrants are provided with access to medical services.

I thank you, Madam President.