

Remarks by **AZERBAIJAN**
UPR-United Arab Emirates

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Mr. President,

Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the Delegation of United Arab Emirates to the UPR and thanks... for the presentation of the national report.

We congratulate United Arab Emirates concerning the continuing accession to human rights instruments such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We are also satisfied with initiating the process of acceding to optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We welcome strengthening of cooperation with UN human rights instruments. Since its first UPR, a number of special rapporteurs, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the country. We expect that the establishment of the Human Rights Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will substantially contribute to the development of the collaboration with UN human rights bodies. We recommend United Arab Emirates to further continue the existing cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms.

We commend the efforts of the Government in order to promote and empower women rights, including the update of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women in the United Arab Emirates for 2013-2017. The legislative and judicial reforms with regard to the gender equality, as well as the establishment of various institutions for the enhancement of the protection of women and providing them with required shelters should also be noted. We recommend United Arab Emirates to continue putting forward effective measures for the protection and promotion of the rights of women in the country.

High rankings of United Arab Emirates in the different international indices such as Human Development Index, Happiness and satisfaction index and others, are also clear indicators of the achievements of the Government in the field of economic and social welfare of its people.

United Arab Emirates has also made considerable efforts to improve the education in the country, such as the establishment of education councils, enforcement of a series of legislative acts and others. Education-related allocations constitute 16.5% of the general budget. In that regard, we recommend United Arab Emirates to further strengthen its role as an international centre for higher education.

Finally, the Delegation of Azerbaijan would like to assure once again the brotherly Delegation of the United Arab Emirates of our full support and cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.