

## **United Arab Emirates**

### **Question**

In 2008, the United Arab Emirates voluntarily pledged to study the establishment of an independent national human rights institution. We welcome the recent approval by the UAE Federal National Council of the creation of a permanent human rights committee. Could the delegation of the United Arab Emirates inform us on the composition, mandate and oversight of this Human Rights Committee, as well as the remaining steps and deadlines for its establishment?

### **Recommendations**

#### **Canada recommends that the United Arab Emirates:**

1. Continue to strengthen labour laws by implementing the provisions of the June 2011 ILO treaty that extends key labor protections to domestic workers.
2. Continue to introduce amendments to its national family law to ensure equal status and rights for women, in all matters.
3. Continue to take steps to uphold freedom of expression by reviewing restrictive articles of its recent Cybercrime law and consider updating the 1980 media law. We recommend that new legislation be aligned with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

#### **Observations (if time allows):**

We welcome the steps taken by the United Arab Emirates to introduce legislation, policies and memorandums to ensure migrant worker's rights, as well as improve their working and living conditions. Canada also recognizes the important work done by the UAE to empower women and promote values of equality, including the 2012 decree allowing Emirati women married to foreigners to pass their citizenship to their children once they are of legal age. Canada commends the UAE on measures taken to improve and promote human rights.

Canada would also like to highlight the work done by the United Arab Emirates to respect international refugee protection standards, despite the absence of a national framework regulating asylum.