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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

15th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's questions and recommendations to the United Arab Emirates

28 January 2013

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to thank the United Arab Emirates for the national report and its presentation today. Finland welcomes the ratifications of the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, and the *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons, Especially Women and Children* (the Palermo Protocol).

However, Finland is concerned that the UAE is still not party to many important international human rights instruments such as the ICCPR and the ICESCR. Finland would be interested in the Government's views regarding the ratification of these instruments, including information about possible measures being taken to proceed towards ratification and the expected timeframe.

Moreover, Finland would like to express its concern about the United Arab Emirates' reservations to the CEDAW.

Finland has two recommendations:

- 1) Ratify all the main international human rights instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.**
- 2) Withdraw the reservations to articles 2 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.**

Thank you.