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Ms. Doireann HnsBro

Ireland's intervention - United Arab Emirates' UPR

Thank you Mr President

Ireland thanks the United Arab Emirates delegation for its comprehensive presentation this afternoon.

Ireland welcomes the accession of the United Arab Emirates to the UN Convention against Torture in July 2012 and urges UAE to ensure that the comprehensive definition of torture contained within Article 1 of the Convention is enshrined in its national law.

Noting that serious consideration is being given to this issue, Ireland encourages the UAE to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles as soon as possible.

Ireland notes the positive developments made by the United Arab Emirates in the area of migrant worker's rights in recent years including the new labour regulations and the introduction of compulsory housing standards. Ireland recommends that labour laws protecting employees' rights are strongly enforced so as to improve the living and working conditions of migrant workers including the implementation by the Ministry of Labour of the provision for a minimum wage for all workers, as provided for by law.

Ireland notes that freedom of expression is guaranteed under article 30 of the United Arab Emirates' Constitution. As communication on the internet falls clearly within the scope of the right to freedom of expression, it is important to ensure that the internet remains an open, global and public forum and that freedom of opinion and expression are fully respected. In this regard, Ireland recommends that the UAE ensure legislation in this area is in line with international standards on respect for freedom of the media and information, including by amending the Cyber Crime Law and repealing the November 2012 Federal Legal Decree No. 5 on Cyber Crime.

I thank you.