

Ms. Aoiife 58
Lyons

Cameroon

UPR 16

Statement by Ireland:

Thank you Mister President/ Madame Vice President,

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Cameroon and thanks it for the presentation today. Ireland notes the positive steps taken by Cameroon since its last UPR in 2009, including the establishment of a National Human Rights Education Programme; the Interministerial Committee for monitoring implementation of recommendations and decisions of the international and regional human rights mechanisms; and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts.

Ireland welcomes efforts made by Cameroon to improve detention conditions including the construction of two new prisons, however we note the concerns raised by the Committee Against Torture about the use in prisons of chains as disciplinary measures and encourage Cameroon to repeal the decree on disciplinary measures in prison.

Ireland urges Cameroon to immediately establish an official de jure moratorium on the death penalty.

Ireland recognises efforts by Cameroon to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) including by setting up local FGM control committees and updates made to the five year action plan for the fight against FGM. However, Ireland notes the continued concerns raised regarding female genital mutilation and breast ironing by Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee Against Torture, the Human Rights Committee and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Ireland **recommends** that Cameroon adopt and implement, by the end of 2014, a law prohibiting all forms of violence against children, including harmful practices such as FGM and breast ironing and to ensure that such legislation is in line with international human rights standards.

Ireland wishes to commend Cameroon for having accepted the visit request of the SR on the situation of human rights defenders. However we remain concerned following recent reports from UN Special Rapporteurs regarding allegations of undue restrictions on the activities of human rights defenders and threats against them, notably attacks against human rights defenders working on LGBT rights, including lawyers providing legal assistance to individuals charged with homosexuality, indigenous rights defenders and those working for the rights of refugees. Ireland **recommends** that Cameroon provide adequate protection to human rights defenders at risk, especially involving the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

I thank you, Mister President.