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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

H.E. Permanent Representative
Päivi Kairamo
53

17th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

**Finland's recommendations to China
22 October 2013**

Mr President,

Finland wishes to thank China for the national report and its presentation today.

Finland has observed with keen interest the amending of Criminal Procedure Law and the Law of Lawyers. **As an element in ensuring appropriate conditions for defence lawyers to exercise their profession without any intimidation or improper interference, in accordance with international law and standards, including the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Finland recommends that China guarantee access to prompt and effective investigation by an independent and impartial body for defence lawyers alleging that their access to their clients has been unlawfully obstructed.**

Finland notes with satisfaction China's commitment to adopt a comprehensive policy to combat child labour, and the promulgation of an Outline for Children's Development. To achieve tangible results, **Finland recommends that China create national and local-level systems to protect children from all forms of exploitation, including child labour.**

Finally, Finland would be interested in what measures the Government is taking to investigate cases of alleged intimidation and reprisals against individuals from civil society seeking to engage with the UPR process.

Thank you.