**UPR 17 - Jordan**

**Intervention by Ireland**

**24 October 2013**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Jordan and expresses appreciation for its presentation, national report and engagement with the UPR process.

Ireland commends Jordan on the progress made since the first cycle of the UPR, including the introduction of constitutional amendments in 2011, such as the confirmation of the presumption of innocence before trial. We note that concerns remain in relation to fair trial standards and the independence of the judiciary.

Ireland particularly welcomes the 2011 constitutional amendment on the explicit prohibition of torture. Despite this positive step, we note concerns expressed by the Committee Against Torture that torture is not treated as a serious crime, with penalties appropriate to its gravity. We also note the Committee’s concern regarding the lack of fair and adequate compensation for damages caused by torture.

Ireland recommends that the Penal Code and relevant legislation be amended to end impunity for torture and ensure victims’ right to justice and to compensation.

Ireland notes in particular the concerns raised by the Human Rights Committee regarding restrictions on the establishment of civil society organisations and its call on Jordan to amend the Law on Societies, particularly in relation to restrictions on foreign funding where prior approval for foreign funding of civil society organisations must be granted by the Government. Ireland recommends that Jordan amend the Law on Societies to remove undue restrictions and facilitate the ability of civil society organisations to seek, secure and use resources, including foreign funding, in order to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to peaceful assembly and association.

Thank you, Mr President.