**UPR 17 Mauritius
Intervention by Ireland, 23 October 2013**

Mr. President,

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

Ireland notes the positive steps taken by Mauritius since the first cycle of the UPR, including:

* The restructuring of the National Human Rights Commission to align its functions with the Paris principles;
* The adoption of legislation which aligns national law with the provisions of the Rome Statute; and
* The development of a national action plan on human rights which envisions greater involvement of civil society in the protection and promotion of human rights.

Ireland welcomes the passing of the Equal Opportunities Act which prohibits discrimination, *inter alia*, on the grounds of sexual orientation. However, we remain deeply concerned that sexual conduct between consenting adults of the same sex remains criminalised. Ireland recommends that Mauritius repeal Section 250 of the Criminal Code which criminalises sexual conduct between consenting adults of the same sex.

Ireland takes note of the proposal of the Government of Mauritius to introduce a Media bill designed to enhance the application of democratic principles to the media industry. We also note that no law currently provides a statutory basis for citizens, the media and civil society organisations to obtain access to information possessed by government. We underline that the right to freedom of information is part of the right to freedom of expression, and that it plays an important role in the securing of democracy, accountability and good governance. Therefore, Ireland recommends that Mauritius enacts legislation to provide for freedom of information requests.

Thank you Mr. President.