

**UPR 17 - Monaco
Statement by Ireland**

Mr. President,

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

Ireland notes that Monaco has signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We acknowledge the commitment made in the national report to cooperate with the Court on a case-by-case basis. We underline the importance of universal support for the ICC, the first permanent court capable of investigating and prosecuting individuals who commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. While cognisant of domestic legal hurdles which may have to be overcome, we consider that ratification of the Rome Statute by Monaco would constitute a timely reaffirmation of its commitment to the fight against impunity. Accordingly, Ireland recommends that Monaco ratifies the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, fully aligns its national legislation with the obligations under the Rome Statute, and accedes to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court.

Furthermore, Ireland notes with concern that defamation remains a criminal offence under the Monegasque Criminal Code. We consider the criminalisation of defamation to be a disproportionate restriction on freedom of expression. Ireland recommends that Monaco decriminalise defamation and make it part of the Civil Code.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr James C. O'Shea
1st Secretary