

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
27 JANUARY – 7 FEBRUARY 2014
STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA ON SECOND UPR REPORT OF COMOROS
DELIVERED BY MR EBENEZER APPREKU, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA,
AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA ON 31 JANUARY 2014

Thank you Mr President for giving me the floor

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation from Comoros and congratulates them on the presentation of the national report **on the second cycle review of Comoros which was prepared through broad based consultations including civil society**. The present report also demonstrates the commitment by Comoros to the UPR mechanism and the respect for human rights. We note with satisfaction the establishment of the Supreme Court thus completing the hierarchy of courts and enhancing the administration of justice and the rule of law

Ghana commends Comoros for the establishment of various national institutions to promote and protect human rights, and to fight corruption (including the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms (**Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés (CNDHL)**), the **National Commission for Action against and Prevention of Corruption (CNPLC)**)

Ghana applauds Comoros for adopting the national strategy to combat corruption and a five-year plan to that end.

Ghana supports the appeal by Comoros to the international community for assistance to strengthen the relevant institutions with the necessary human, financial and technical capacity

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr President,

However, in light of the general information contained in the second national report and related documents under consideration during this session, Ghana wishes to make the following recommendations to Comoros,

- To guarantee genuine and effective independence of the various human rights and anti-corruption institutions through the mode of appointments to the institutions, including allowing interest groups to directly appoint their representatives and the provision of appropriate levels of human and material resources
- To decriminalize defamation and to continue national measures to promote the independence of the media , protection of journalists and freedom of information
- To continue its effort to promote religious freedom and continue to broaden the space for inter-faith dialogue
- To continue efforts to enhance enrollment of girls in school and minimize the drop and enhance literacy levels especially among women
- To ratify the **United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families** (Migrant Workers Convention) signed by Comoros in the year 2000
- To expand the space for independent activities of civil society groups to accept to issue a standing invitation to the special procedures to visit Comoros

I thank you Mr President