

**UPR 18 – Comoros**  
**Statement by Ireland**  
**31 January 2014**

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Comoros and thanks it for its national report and for its presentation today.

We are pleased to note some positive developments since the first review of the Comoros in 2009, including the introduction of a national human rights policy in October 2012 and the adoption at the same time of legislation establishing a National Human Rights Institution (Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés - CNDHL), even if the latter has yet to receive accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. We also welcome the ratification in 2012 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We note that the Comoros has not yet become party to some of the fundamental international legal instruments in the field of human rights. Accordingly, and in reinforcement of recommendations accepted by the Comoros at the first review in 2009, Ireland **recommends** that the Comoros ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both signed in 2008, as well as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, signed in 2000.

Further, we note that a number of human rights treaty bodies have expressed concern at the situation of women in the Comoros, in particular at the high illiteracy rate of women and gender disparity in the education system, especially at the secondary level. Ireland **recommends** that the Comoros take steps to increase the participation of girls in the education system.