

UPR 18 – Yemen  
Statement by Ireland  
29 January 2014

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Yemen and thanks it for its presentation.

We welcome positive developments since the first UPR cycle, including the recent conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference with agreement on a document on which the new Constitution will be based.

Ireland is concerned by the situation of women and children in Yemen, including the existence of the death penalty for juveniles.

While welcoming the decline in the mortality rates of children under five, we nonetheless remain concerned at reports that nearly one million children under five suffer from severe malnutrition and that stunting remains a critical problem. Accordingly, Ireland **recommends** that Yemen adopt a comprehensive strategy which is grounded in human rights principles, in particular non-discrimination and equality, to combat malnutrition and further reduce the mortality rates of children under five.

Ireland is concerned that a minimum age for marriage has not been set, despite Yemen's acceptance of a UPR recommendation to increase the age of marriage to 18. We note the reports that child marriage is a major factor in malnutrition, and also a root cause of illiteracy amongst Yemeni women. Early marriage also often results in early childbearing which can have serious physical and psychological consequences. Ireland **recommends** that Yemen adopt and implement legislation setting the minimum age of marriage at 18 years, as recommended by the National Dialogue Conference, and raise awareness of the negative effects of child marriage.