**UPR 29, January 22, 2018**

**Recommendations by Canada for the United Arab Emirates’ UPR**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes the United Arab Emirates’ presentation today and the positive steps taken to empower women and promote gender equality. Canada recognises the notable role of Emirati women in politics and governance.

Canada recommends that the United Arab Emirates:

1. Continue to strengthen its labour laws through consistent follow-up on the implementation by employers of rights granted to workers in recent legal reforms, in particular the September 2017 legal changes applying to domestic workers, and establish a national institution capable of addressing migrant workers’ need for protection and advocacy.
2. Uphold freedom of expression in traditional and online media by removing from relevant laws the restrictions on expressions critical of State officials and institutions and the related administrative and judicial penalties.
3. Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and introduce amendments to its national family law to ensure equal status and rights for women in all matters.

Canada welcomes the steps taken by the United Arab Emirates to strengthen the Federal National Council and encourages a greater role for it in future law reform efforts. Canada also recognizes important steps taken to ensure migrant workers’ rights and to improve their working and living conditions. Canada commends the important work undertaken to promote equality and inclusion, particularly on the basis of religion.