

**29<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review (15-24 January 2018)**

**Review of United Arab Emirates**

**Statement of Ireland**

**22 January 2018**

Thank you Mr (Vice) President

Ireland welcomes the United Arab Emirates delegation and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland welcomes the affirmation by UAE of a societal model that highlights tolerance, respect for religious and cultural diversity, a growing empowerment of women and greater gender balance.

Ireland encourages UAE to ratify overarching international Human Rights instruments. We encourage UAE to enlarge its cooperation with Special Procedures established under these and other instruments.

Ireland welcomes the establishment in 2013 of the consultative Human Rights Committee as a standing committee of the Federal National Council but continues to urge the UAE to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Ireland is concerned that despite a 2014 Presidential Decree ordering a stay on executions, death sentences were carried out in the UAE in 2015 and 2017. Ireland is concerned that since its most recent Periodic Review in 2013, the UAE has enacted legislation to widen the number of offences subject to the death penalty. **Ireland recommends** that the UAE give effect to a moratorium on executions with the aim of abolishing the death penalty.

Ireland notes advances made by the UAE in the area of labour law, including Federal Law 10, 2017 and those protections which ensure that relations between workers and employers must be governed by a duly registered employment contract based on mutual and informed consent. Ireland is nonetheless concerned that gaps remain in protection of foreign workers, in particular domestic workers, under the *kafalah* (sponsorship) system. **Ireland recommends** that newly enacted national provisions are strongly enforced, in keeping with relevant international instruments, including ILO Convention 189.

I thank you.