

30th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Djibouti
Statement of Ireland
10 May 2018

Thank you Mr. Vice President,

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Djibouti and thanks it for its presentation today.

We welcome the measures taken since the last cycle to strengthen the functioning and organisation of the National Human Rights Commission. However, note the continuing need for improvements in this regard. We thus encourage the Government to continue to strengthen its independence and its mandate and provide it with adequate financial and human resources to assist it in meeting the standards required by the Paris Principles.

We share the concerns of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination about the continuing reports of gender-based violence against women and harmful traditional practices, in particular female genital mutilation and child marriage. In this regard, we welcome recent efforts by the Djibouti Government aimed at eradicating female genital mutilation. Ireland **recommends** that the government continue its efforts to achieve the complete eradication of female genital mutilation, including by raising awareness about the risks associated with this practice and by application of the criminal law.

Ireland is extremely concerned about the reports of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders, including those who sought to engage with this UPR cycle. We also note with concern reports of civil society organisations, political opponents and members of the media, including threats, intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrests and detention. We thus **recommend** that Djibouti take urgent steps to facilitate the work of human rights defenders, civil society and the media, including through guaranteeing the freedom of expression, peaceful association and assembly, and through protecting all persons from intimidation, threats, attacks or reprisals for seeking to cooperate with the United Nations.

Thank you.