

30th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Cabo Verde

Statement of Ireland

8 May 2017

Thank you, Mr. President/Mr. Vice President

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

We congratulate Cabo Verde on progress made since the last UPR cycle, including in relation to the rights of children. We particularly welcome the adoption of the Child and Adolescent Statute, and encourage Cabo Verde to continue its efforts towards its full implementation.

We welcome that the Constitution of Cabo Verde guarantees freedom of expression and information, as well as freedom and independence of the press. However, we are concerned that defamation remains a criminal offence, and that there is no legislation on freedom of information. We therefore **recommend** that Cabo Verde decriminalise defamation and place it within a civil code that is in accordance with international standards, and adopt a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards.

We appreciate Cabo Verde's efforts to address gender-based violence, including the adoption of the second National Plan to Combat Gender-Based Violence. Nonetheless, we share the concerns expressed by CEDAW regarding the persistence of violence against women, including domestic violence, in addition to sexual abuse at school and harassment in the workplace. We **recommend** that Cabo Verde effectively implement existing legislation and action plans for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women, in addition to victim protection programmes.

We wish Cabo Verde every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.