

Universal Periodic Review – 21st Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Guinea-Bissau

23 January 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Guinea-Bissau and thanks it for its national report and its presentation today.

Ireland notes with appreciation efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to address the issue of female genital mutilation, particularly the 2011 Law to Prevent, Fight and Suppress Female Genital Mutilation, the national action plan, and the strengthening of the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices. We also welcome the further information provided on this issue by the delegation today. However, we remain concerned at the prevalence of this practice. Ireland **recommends** that Guinea-Bissau take measures to enforce the criminalization of female genital mutilation, ensuring that offenders are prosecuted and punished in accordance with the law, as well as re-enforcing public education and awareness-raising programmes aimed at eliminating this practice.

Second, Ireland notes with deep concern the July 2013 Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in relation to cases in Guinea-Bissau of ritual murders. Ireland strongly **recommends** that Guinea-Bissau take the necessary measures to prevent the ritual murder of persons with albinism, children with disabilities, twins and children accused of practicing witchcraft, to investigate and prosecute those suspected of committing these crimes, and to increase efforts to raise awareness of the need to eradicate such practices.

Thank you.