

**UPR 18 – Eritrea**  
**Statement by Ireland**  
**3 February 2014**

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Eritrea and thanks it for its national report and for its presentation.

While this engagement is welcome, Ireland is concerned at Eritrea's failure to respond to any of the requests submitted by special procedure mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council since its last review. In follow-up to our first-cycle recommendation, Ireland **recommends** that Eritrea cooperate with special procedure mandate-holders by responding positively to requests for information and visits.

We are also concerned that the Constitution, adopted in 1997, has not been implemented to date, and that elections have not been held since Eritrea gained independence over twenty years ago. We reiterate the call of the Human Rights Council in its resolution 23/21 that Eritrea implement fully the Constitution adopted in 1997, and govern in accordance with the principles of the rule of law.

Ireland was pleased that our recommendation of full enforcement of the commitment to abolishing female genital mutilation was accepted by Eritrea during its first-cycle review in 2009, and that the practice has been prohibited in law by proclamation No. 158/2007. We note, however, that, according to the government's own information, this harmful practice continues to occur, particularly in the Northern and Southern Red Sea regions. Ireland **recommends** that Eritrea continue its efforts to achieve the complete eradication of female genital mutilation, including by raising awareness about the risks associated with this practice and about its prohibition.