

UPR 18 – Vanuatu
Intervention by Ireland
30 January 2014

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Vanuatu and thanks it for its presentation, national report and engagement with the UPR process.

We note with satisfaction the positive developments since the first cycle of the UPR as detailed in the national report. Ireland acknowledges the appointment in February 2013 of an interim national human rights committee, an important first step toward the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris principles, and commends Vanuatu's constructive engagement with the OHCHR in this regard.

Ireland welcomes the steps taken by Vanuatu to ratify certain international human rights treaties since the first cycle of the UPR, including the UN Convention against Torture. We note with appreciation Vanuatu's accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, while also noting that Vanuatu has yet to ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court and the need for national legislation to be fully aligned with the Rome Statute. We call on Vanuatu to give consideration to further ratifications. In particular, Ireland **recommends** that Vanuatu ratifies the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Ireland commends Vanuatu's ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption and its development of a draft bill on freedom of information. Cognisant of the importance of transparency and accountability in governance, Ireland **recommends** that Vanuatu accelerates the introduction of a law on freedom of information in line with international standards.