

Universal Periodic Review – 22nd Session
Statement by Ireland on the review of Andorra

07 May 2015

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

Ireland commends Andorra for its extension of a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. However, we note that, despite having ratified both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination in 2006, Andorra has yet to submit an initial report to either of these Treaty Bodies. Ireland encourages Andorra to take all possible steps to submit its outstanding reports to the UN Treaty Bodies as expeditiously as possible.

Ireland is pleased to note that since its first review Andorra has become a party to a number of international human rights instruments. We particularly welcome the ratification of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. We take this opportunity to **recommend** that Andorra sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Second, whilst welcoming the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Ireland shares the concerns expressed by a number of bodies, including the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, about the absence of specific legislation criminalising human trafficking. Therefore, Ireland **recommends** that Andorra amend the Criminal Code with a view to specifically prohibiting trafficking in human beings as a criminal offence.