



Statement of Ireland
37th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of São Tomé and Príncipe

27 January 2021

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of São Tomé and Príncipe and thanks it for its presentation today. Ireland acknowledges São Tomé and Príncipe's efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We welcome the progress to-date in enacting legislation on the rights of the child, particularly in protection against exploitation, most notably, the 2016 National Child Protection Policy and its Action Plan, and the 2017 reactivation of the National Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ireland is concerned however that child labour remains widespread, particularly in farming, plantations, and fisheries, as reported by the International Labour Organisation, and that corporal punishment is not prohibited by law.

We are also concerned about the limited progress in establishing an independent national human rights institution, a recommendation accepted by São Tomé and Príncipe in the previous UPR cycle.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the São Tomé and Príncipe authorities:

1. Establish, without delay, a national human rights institution that complies with the Paris Principles.

2. Develop policies and legislation for the protection of the rights of the child, including the implementation of the national action plan on child labour, and the explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment of children in all settings as well as repealing all provisions defending its use.

We wish São Tomé and Príncipe every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.