ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: United Arab Emirates

UN Human Rights Council
54\textsuperscript{th} session
11 September – 14 October

Mr. President,

There are at least 26 prisoners of conscience in UAE prisons, plus scores more arbitrarily imprisoned after the grossly unfair mass trial of 2013.\footnote{Amnesty International, “United Arab Emirates: Dissidents Imprisoned and Migrants Racially Targeted”, 25 October 2022 https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde25/5983/2022/en/, p. 4.} We are disappointed that during its review no state mentioned by name any of the well-known imprisoned human rights defenders such as Mohamed al-Roken and Ahmed Mansoor.

We are deeply disappointed that the UAE has not accepted any recommendation for the release of human rights defenders, prisoners of conscience,\footnote{Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (WG UPR), Report: United Arab Emirates, 29 June 2023, UN Doc. A/HRC/54/15, recommendation 35.148 (Belgium); UAE, آراء بشأن الاستنتاجات و/أو التوصيات، والالتزامات الطوعية والردود المقدمة من الدولة موضوع الاستعراض [Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review], 5 September 2023, UN Doc. A/HRC/54/15/Add.1, p. 5.} or people held past the end of their sentences.\footnote{WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendation, 35.128 (Netherlands); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 5.} And we are appalled that the UAE would not accept recommendations as basic as one calling for prohibition of secret detention and protection against torture,\footnote{WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendation 35.125 (Italy); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 5.} or one saying that terrorism laws should not be used to prosecute human rights defenders.\footnote{WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendation 35.158 (Liechtenstein); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 5.}

The UAE is not a party to either of the international human rights Covenants, and has refused to
accept all recommendations to join these Covenants,6 or even consider joining them.7 This open refusal to accept international human rights law, shortly before the UAE will host the annual global climate conference, sends an ominous signal.

Thank you.

6 WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendations 35.2-35.4 (Italy, Paraguay, Mauritius and Togo), 35.9 (Ecuador), 35.11 (Ireland and Namibia), 35.14 (Namibia), 35.15 (Czechia), 35.20 (Estonia), 35.30 (Germany), 35.44-35.46 (Slovakia and Spain), 35.144 (France); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 3.

7 WG UPR, Report: UAE (previously cited), recommendations 35.5-35.8 (Peru, Nepal, Finland, Chile and Palestine), 35.10 (Cyprus), 35.12 (Kenya), 35.13 (Lithuania), 35.16 (Latvia), 35.17 (Colombia), 35.38 (South Korea), 35.39 (Moldova), Honduras (35.48); UAE, Views on conclusions (previously cited), p. 3.