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Speaker: Nicolas AGOSTINI

Human Rights Council – 26th session

Item 6 – UPR Outcomes: Adoption of the report of the Working Group  
on the UPR of Yemen

Oral statement

Mr. President,

FIDH welcomes Yemen's acceptance of recommendations pertaining to the installment of a proper **reconciliation and transitional justice framework** in conformity with international standards. We encourage the Yemeni authorities to act in conformity with such a pledge and to amend the **transitional justice draft law** in order to guarantee the rights of victims of grave human rights violations to justice and effective remedies.

Yemen has also accepted recommendations about the establishment of an **independent commission** to investigate allegations of human rights violations perpetrated during the events of 2011. The establishment of such a mechanism was announced more than three years ago. As of today, no commissioner has been nominated. Urgent and concrete measures should be taken in conformity with Yemen's reiterated pledge in this regard.

We also welcome Yemen's acceptance of a series of recommendations relating to **women's rights**, particularly the establishment in law of a minimum age for marriage. We hope that the adoption of such a law will not again be challenged by religious and political groups. However, we regret that Yemen has refused to respond in due course to 25 recommendations, including that pertaining to ratification of the OP-CEDAW. **Discriminatory provisions**, which are among the root causes of violations of women's rights, remain in place both in the Yemeni Penal Code and in the Personal Status Law (PSL). The latter provides, among other things, for male guardianship for activities including marriage, travel and choice of the place of residence.

Mr. President,

We take note of Yemen's acceptance of recommendations relating to the promotion and protection of the rights to **freedom of expression, of peaceful assembly and of association**. However, we note with concern that journalists and human rights defenders continue to be targeted and have faced intimidation, threats, travel bans, imprisonment, and even corporal punishments. Finally, we recall that civil society organizations face restrictions in carrying out their activities. We call upon the authorities to put an end to such practices and to conduct immediate independent and impartial investigations into these acts.

Thank you for your attention.