

**Universal Periodic Review – 22<sup>nd</sup> Session**  
**Statement by Ireland on the review of Mongolia**

**05 May 2015**

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

We thank Mongolia for the submission of a voluntary mid-term report. We are pleased to note that since its first review Mongolia has become a party to a number of international human rights instruments, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We also welcome the moratorium on executions imposed in 2010 and we encourage Mongolia to abolish the death penalty both in law and in practice.

Whilst welcoming the adoption of the Gender Equality Law, we note that a number of treaty bodies have expressed concern at the absence of comprehensive legislation on discrimination, and about negative social attitudes towards a number of vulnerable groups including women, LGBTI persons and persons living with HIV/AIDs. Ireland **recommends** that Mongolia adopt comprehensive legislation to counter discrimination, and take steps to ensure that equality enshrined in such legislation or in existing law is achieved in practice.

Ireland is also concerned by some restrictions on freedom of expression and opinion in Mongolia, and, in particular, that defamation remains a criminal offence. According to the Human Rights Committee, the legislation on defamation has been applied to prosecute journalists for criticising public servants and lawyers for contesting judges' decisions. Ireland **recommends** that Mongolia decriminalise defamation and place it under the civil code in accordance with international human rights standards.