

30th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Turkmenistan

Statement of Ireland

7 May 2017

Thank you, Mr. President

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Turkmenistan and thanks it for its presentation today.

We welcome positive developments since the previous UPR cycle, including the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2016-2020 and the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman. We urge Turkmenistan to ensure an effective and independent functioning Ombudsman, in accordance with the Paris Principles, including through clear and transparent appointment and dismissal procedures.

Ireland recalls its previous accepted recommendation that Turkmenistan permit visits from all UN Special Procedures who had requested a visit. We appreciate that the National Human Rights Action Plan commits to new visits by Special Procedures. However, we regret that no such visits have yet taken place, and that many requests remain pending. We again **recommend** that Turkmenistan permit visits from all UN Special Procedures who have requested to visit the country, in particular the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Ireland remains concerned about restrictions on freedom of association in Turkmenistan. We echo the concerns recently expressed by the Human Rights Committee in this regard. We therefore **recommend** that Turkmenistan reform the relevant legislation to bring it in line with its obligations under the ICCPR, including by simplifying the legal and procedural requirements for registration by civil society organisations and minimising reporting obligations to authorities.

We wish Turkmenistan every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.