

**Human Rights Council – 30<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Item 6: Universal Periodic Review of Malawi**

**Statement by Ireland**

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Malawi and congratulates it for successful completion of its UPR review.

We note in particular the progress made through the tri-partite elections in 2014 and the current work by the National Task Force on Electoral Reforms to improve the coherency, integrity and adequacy of Malawi's electoral legal framework; as well as measures taken to enact legislation to prevent early marriage. We trust that the current review of legislation dealing with violence against women will address many of the concerns raised during the interactive dialogue.

We are pleased to note that both recommendations submitted by Ireland enjoy the support of the Government of Malawi.

We look forward to the Prisons Bill (2003) being submitted to Parliament at the earliest possible opportunity. We welcome increasing decentralisation of the hearing of homicide cases and the review of the legal framework for the holding of camp courts, which will assist in reducing numbers of pre-trial detainees. We would welcome a time-bound action plan for setting out the Government's approach to deal with prison overcrowding, in particular extraordinary periods of pre-trial detention faced by many detainees.

We particularly appreciate the Government of Malawi's commitment to establish a legal framework on the right to food, building on the draft food and nutrition bill and integrating a gender perspective through a consultative process with relevant stakeholders, as well as the current proposal to merge the food security bill and nutrition security bill.

Thank you