

25th session of the Universal Periodic Review (2 – 13 May 2016)

Review of Sudan

Statement by Ireland

4 May 2016

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Sudan and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland is deeply concerned at the situation of human rights in Sudan. We deplore the wide application of the death penalty and corporal punishment, sexual violence against women in conflict areas, recruitment and use of children in the armed forces, and illegitimate restrictions on human rights defenders and civil society.

We **recommend** that Sudan urgently review its criminal justice system, in particular to criminalise torture and prohibit the use in courts of evidence obtained in violation of ICCPR; abolish corporal punishment in the penal system; abolish the crime of apostasy; implement the recently signed Action Plan to prevent recruitment of children to the national security forces; and address the impunity of police, armed forces and national security forces by amending the National Security Act 2010 to conform with ICCPR and through ratification of the Statute of the ICC.

Further, Ireland further **recommends** that Sudan take urgent steps to facilitate the work of human rights defenders and civil society, including through guaranteeing freedom of expression and the media and protection of all persons from intimidation, threats, attacks or reprisals for seeking to cooperate with the UN; and through allowing unimpeded humanitarian access to affected populations, with appropriate protection to humanitarian actors.

Finally we condemn reports that human rights defenders were prevented from travelling to Geneva in preparation for this review and regret Sudan's failure to fully cooperate, through response to urgent appeals, with Special Procedures of the Council.

Thank you