

28th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

(6-17 November 2017)

Review of Sri Lanka

Statement of Ireland

15 November 2017

Thank you, Mr Vice President

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka and expresses thanks for the presentation of its third national report. Ireland commends Sri Lanka on its cooperation with the OHCHR and various Special Procedures since the 2nd UPR Cycle and welcomes its recent ratification of various human rights treaties.

Ireland welcomes the positive developments in the area of the protection of human rights defenders and the opening of democratic space. However, we are concerned about recent reports of intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, and the failure to investigate these allegations properly. In this respect, Ireland **recommends** that Sri Lanka take measures to adequately protect human rights defenders, to ensure proper investigation into alleged attacks and to prosecute those found responsible.

Ireland welcomes Sri Lanka's co-sponsorship of Resolution HRC30/1 which, *inter alia*, calls on the authorities, to 'implement effectively' the LLRC recommendations. Ireland echoes the call of the High Commissioner urging the government to take effective action to ensure that its commitment to transitional justice is realised. In this context, Ireland **recommends** that the government take the necessary steps to ensure the speedy creation of a Commission for Truth, a Judicial Mechanism and an Office for Reparations pursuant to HRC Resolution 30/1.

Thank you.