

## Universal Periodic Review

21<sup>st</sup> session

### Statement by Ireland on the review of Kenya

22 January 2015

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

We welcome positive efforts undertaken by Kenya since its first UPR, including the adoption of a new Constitution in 2010. While we recognise the challenges Kenya has faced in ensuring the security of its citizens, we urge Kenya to ensure that any security legislation and procedures are in compliance with international human rights principles.

In 2010, Kenya accepted a recommendation from Ireland to abolish the death penalty. However, we note little progress has been made. Ireland **recommends** that Kenya take concrete steps to abolish the death penalty.

We are concerned by reports of intimidation and harassment of civil society actors and human rights defenders as well as proposed legislative changes which may impose undue restrictions on their work. Ireland **recommends** that Kenya create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment, in which human rights defenders and civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, in accordance with Human Rights Council Resolutions 22/6 and 27/31.