

## Universal Periodic Review – 22<sup>nd</sup> session

### Statement by Ireland on the review of Jamaica

13 May 2015

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

We congratulate Jamaica on the ratification, since its first review, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

We note that there are several outstanding requests for visits to Jamaica from special procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council. We encourage Jamaica to grant these requests and to consider extending a standing invitation, as a large number of countries, including Ireland, have done.

Ireland shares the concern of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that the Sexual Offences Act 2009 provides protection against marital rape only in certain circumstances. In our view, the conditions and restrictions contained in the Act excessively limit the scope of the prohibition. Ireland **recommends** that Jamaica amend section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2009 in order to ensure that sexual intercourse by a husband with his wife without her consent is a criminal offence in all circumstances.

We note that the establishment of a national human rights institution is under active consideration. Given the importance of ensuring such an institution's independence, credibility and legitimacy, Ireland **recommends** that Jamaica establish a national human rights institution which is in full compliance with the Paris principles.