

## **Universal Periodic Review – 23rd Session**

### **Statement by Ireland on the review of Myanmar**

**6 November 2015**

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

We welcome the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in October 2015 with several armed groups as a significant step forward and call on the Government of Myanmar to continue to engage with non-signatory ethnic armed groups in order to accelerate national reconciliation.

Ireland is gravely concerned about the restrictions on independent media, freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly in Myanmar. As this review coincides with general elections in Myanmar, Ireland strongly **recommends** that Myanmar continue to create a safe and enabling environment for civil society in order to help the country's ongoing transition to democracy.

Ireland remains concerned about the situation of persons belonging to the Rohingya minority and other minorities in Rakhine State. We **recommend** that Myanmar grant the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar unimpeded access to Rakhine state, including the internment camps, as well as any other requested meetings countrywide on her next visit.