

32nd session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Vietnam

Statement of Ireland

22 January 2019

Thank you, Mr. President

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Vietnam.

Ireland acknowledges Vietnam's efforts and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle including the ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture.

We welcome the reduction of the number of offences punishable by the death penalty, although remain concerned about its continued use overall and would encourage the Vietnamese authorities to consider applying a moratorium with a view to its eventual abolition.

Ireland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ireland recommends that restrictions on freedom of expression, and particularly online freedom, be lifted in line with Vietnam's obligations under international law. Ireland expresses concern that the recent Law on Cybersecurity may restrict freedom of expression and recommends that related Decrees should include clear provisions for interpretation of this Law according to international standards on freedom of expression.
2. Ireland recommends that Vietnam review regulations impeding the operation of Civil Society Organisations, to enable a more open space and ensure that national security provisions are not used to prevent peaceful debate and dissent.

We wish Vietnam every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.