

Universal Periodic Review - 23rd session
Statement by Ireland on the review of Nepal
04 November 2015

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

Ireland commends the positive efforts undertaken by Nepal since its first UPR, despite difficult circumstances including the devastating earthquake earlier this year. We extend our sympathy to the families of the thousands of people killed.

We welcome the adoption in February 2011 of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. We encourage Nepal to further pursue its commitment to address the impact of the armed conflict and recognise the survivors of sexual violence that occurred during the conflict as conflict victims in all support programmes, including the Interim Relief Programme.

Ireland is concerned at reports that journalists, media workers and human rights defenders are victims of physical and sexual violence, detention, harassment, intimidation and stigmatisation by security forces. Ireland **recommends** that Nepal create and maintain, in law and practice, a safe and enabling environment in which journalists, media workers, human rights defenders and civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions 22/6, 27/5 and 27/31.

Ireland is concerned at reports on the lack of enjoyment of the right to adequate food and nutrition in Nepal, including famine amongst vulnerable groups, soaring food prices ahead of winter, and child malnutrition. While we recognise the difficulties faced, Ireland **recommends** that Nepal adopt a comprehensive national strategy to ensure food and nutrition security for all in line with international standards.