

**26th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**(31 October – 11 November 2016)**

**Review of Haiti**

**Statement by Ireland**

**7 November 2016**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

Ireland thanks the delegation of Haiti for its presentation.

Ireland appreciates the significant challenges Haiti faces due to the recent series of natural disasters and the ongoing impacts of climate change, and reaffirms our commitment to providing humanitarian aid to assist vulnerable communities.

Ireland notes that serious concerns continue to be expressed by a range of UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies regarding the prevalence and length of pre-trial detention in Haiti.

Ireland **recommends** that Haiti take steps to strengthen and reform the judiciary to reduce the numbers of pre-trial detainees, particularly minors.

Ireland also shares the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls continues to be widespread and that this problem has been hampered by delays in the adoption of necessary legislation.

Ireland **recommends** that the Government of Haiti adopt the existing draft law on combatting violence against women to incorporate the criminalization of marital rape, incest, and sexual harassment.

Thank you.