

## **28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**(6-17 November 2017)**

### **Review of Pakistan**

#### **Statement of Ireland**

**Monday 13 November 2017**

Thank you Mr. President

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Pakistan and thanks it for its third national report. Ireland would also like to congratulate Pakistan on its recent election to the Human Rights Council.

Ireland welcomes the establishment of the National Commission of Human Rights in 2015 and the launching of its National Action Plan on Human Rights in 2016. Ireland encourages the government to continue working towards the full operationalisation of the Commission and to ensure that its mandate and responsibilities are in line with the Paris Principles.

Ireland also welcomes the positive regional developments being made in the field of bonded labour. However, Ireland remains concerned about the problem of implementation of existing legislation. Ireland would thus **recommend** that Pakistan develop a clear implementation and monitoring plan for all national and provincial legislation on bonded labour.

Ireland is concerned about reports that criminal laws are used improperly against journalists and dissenting voices, including human rights defenders. Ireland would thus **recommend** that Pakistan continue its efforts to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, to ensure that all allegations of attacks against human rights defenders are investigated in an effective, impartial and prompt manner.

Thank you.