

32nd session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Vanuatu

Statement of Ireland

24 January 2019

Thank you, Mr. President

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

Ireland acknowledges Vanuatu's efforts to advance human rights domestically and commends progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We recognise that Vanuatu is particularly vulnerable to climate-related disasters and welcome the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030 and the newly established Ministry of Climate Change. We also welcome the commitment by Vanuatu in its national report to become a signatory to ICESCR and urge the government to give ratification its full consideration.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to Vanuatu:

1. Establish an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles, seeking technical assistance from the OHCHR where necessary.
2. Continue to strengthen the Department of Women's Affairs and intensify efforts to combat violence against women and girls, ensuring perpetrators of such acts are duly prosecuted and convicted by the formal justice system, and that police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers are provided with appropriate training on women's rights.

We wish Vanuatu every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you.