

**26th session of the Universal Periodic Review
(31 October – 11 November 2016)
Review of the Republic of South Sudan**

**Statement by Ireland
7 November 2016**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Ireland welcomes the delegation of South Sudan and thanks it for its presentation.

We welcome the establishment in 2012 of a Commission on Human Rights and the reforms outlined in the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. However, we remain gravely concerned at the reports of persistent violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, particularly with regard to migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as sexual and gender-based violence.

Ireland **recommends** that South Sudan expedite as a matter of priority the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, in line with the Agreement, to try violations of human rights and other serious crimes in South Sudan and ensure accountability of all perpetrators.

Ireland is also concerned that the Non-Governmental Organizations Act and Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Act adopted in February 2016 restrict the operations of civil society and NGOs in providing essential services to the people of South Sudan.

Ireland therefore **recommends** that South Sudan permit unimpeded humanitarian access for civil society, NGOs and UN agencies, without threat of harassment or violence, to ensure the provision of vital supplies and assistance to populations in need.

Thank you.