

**Universal Periodic Review working group – 19<sup>th</sup> session**

**Statement by Ireland on the review of Brunei Darussalam**

**2 May 2014**

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

We are pleased to note that steps are being taken to prepare for accession to some international human rights instruments and to withdraw reservations to others.

While we welcome the fact that no execution has been carried out for many years, we are concerned at recent amendments to the Penal Code which prescribe the death penalty for a wide range of offences. Ireland shares the concern of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the potential application of the death penalty for such a wide range of offences, and **recommends** that Brunei Darussalam postpone the implementation of the Syariah Penal Code Order, 2013, pending a comprehensive review ensuring the Order's compliance with international human rights standards, and put in place a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition.

Ireland welcomes the examples in the national report of women achieving high office in the State administration, private sector and academia, and recent legislative changes aimed at improving the protection of the rights of women. There is room, however, for further improvement in this area. Ireland **recommends** that Brunei Darussalam amend Article 375 of the Penal Code, dealing with the crime of rape, in order to remove the exception for sexual intercourse by a man with his wife.