

Universal Periodic Review working group – 19th session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Costa Rica

Irlanda da la bienvenida a la delegación de Costa Rica y le agradece su presentación.
[Ireland welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica and thanks it for its presentation.]

Ireland commends Costa Rica on the progress made since its first UPR review, including efforts to strengthen human rights protection through the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Commission on Follow-Up to and Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations and the Permanent Body for Consultation with Civil Society.

Ireland welcomes the framework put in place by Costa Rica to combat human trafficking in recent years, including the 2013 Act on trafficking in persons and the establishment of the National Coalition against Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking. Challenges remain in the implementation of this framework, including in relation to victims of trafficking who may qualify as refugees within the meaning of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Ireland **recommends** that Costa Rica enact regulations to the 2013 Law establishing a referral mechanism for victims of trafficking to enable them to apply for asylum, where appropriate.

Ireland welcomes efforts by Costa Rica to combat racism and racial discrimination and improve conditions in indigenous communities and notes that further initiatives are being worked on by the authorities. However, Ireland notes the concerns expressed by the UN system in Costa Rica that the indigenous population continues to suffer discrimination, including with regard to priorities in public policy. To support awareness-raising efforts, Ireland **recommends** that Costa Rica reinforce bilingual and intercultural education models for indigenous children and include education on indigenous cultures in the national school curriculum, with a view to promoting respect for diversity.

5 May 2014