

## Universal Periodic Review – 22nd Session

### Statement by Ireland on the review of Malawi

5 May 2015

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

While commending Malawi for the progress achieved towards gender equality, particularly in the adoption of the Gender Equality Act, Ireland remains concerned at Malawi's high rates of child marriage, maternal mortality and gender based violence. These issues represent serious human rights concerns that demand targeted action including gender-sensitive legislation, stronger enforcement of existing laws, greater support to victims, increased public awareness and promotion of gender equality.

Ireland also notes with concern that women in Malawi are among the poorest and face specific impediments to their enjoyment of the right to food and nutrition. Ireland shares the concern of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food at the absence of a legal framework on the right to food. Ireland **recommends** that Malawi establish a legal framework on the right to food, building on the draft Food and Nutrition Bill and integrating a gender perspective through a consultative process with relevant stakeholders.

Ireland **recommends** that the Government of Malawi submit the Prisons Bill (2003) to Parliament for its consideration at the earliest opportunity and take meaningful action to deal with prison overcrowding, in particular through reducing the extraordinary periods of pre-trial detention faced by many detainees.