

## 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review

### Review of Azerbaijan

#### Statement of Ireland

15 May 2017

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

We welcome the adoption of a number of legislative measures since the previous UPR cycle, including in particular the laws on public participation and on citizens' appeals.

Ireland remains seriously concerned at reports of criminalisation, intimidation, arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of civil society activists, human rights defenders and journalists in Azerbaijan. We therefore **recommend** that Azerbaijan ensure prompt, effective, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment of human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists.

Equally, Ireland is concerned that Azerbaijan's legislation governing the functioning of civil society remains unduly restrictive, and that recent legislative amendments have further limited the ability of NGOs to carry out their work. We **recommend** that Azerbaijan revise all laws, regulations and practices concerning freedom of association, to bring them into full compliance with international human rights standards.

We wish Azerbaijan every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.