

30th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Colombia
Statement of Ireland
10 May 2018

Thank you, Mr. President

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

Ireland acknowledges the landmark achievement of Colombia's Peace Agreement and strongly supports your efforts to implement its comprehensive provisions. We congratulate you for Colombia's continued leadership and commitment to the peace process, despite current obstacles, including the humanitarian impact of the situation in Venezuela.

One of the main human rights challenges post-Agreement has been a troubling increase in attacks on Human Rights Defenders and social leaders. We acknowledge the institutional efforts being made to address this issue and encourage you to redouble your efforts to strengthen the application of the rule of law and the state presence across the country.

Ireland recommends that Colombia takes all necessary measures in order to protect human rights defenders against threats and attacks and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

Ireland recognises the challenges of the reincorporation process and of ensuring the participation of victims at the centre of the implementation of transitional justice arrangements. We note that violence against women, particularly domestic violence, remains at unacceptably high levels, with more than 70,000 reported cases in 2017. We do acknowledge the legislative measures that have been put in place to address this issue.

Ireland recommends that Colombia intensifies its efforts to address violence against women and that it continues to work to ensure full application of the laws against the perpetrators of such violence.

Finally, we look forward to continuing to work closely with Colombia and the UN Country Team, including the OHCHR, to promote human rights and peace and we wish Colombia every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you