

27th session of the Universal Periodic Review (1 – 12 May 2017)

Review of Ecuador

Statement by Ireland

1 May 2017

Mr. President

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Ecuador and thanks it for its national report and presentation.

Ireland welcomes progress by Ecuador in relation to children's rights, including steps to increase birth registration, eliminate child labour and establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 years. However we regret that, despite accepting 4 recommendations in that regard in the 2nd UPR cycle, legislation to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including in schools and in the home, has not yet been enacted. We urge Ecuador to introduce and enforce such legislation as a matter of priority and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

We further note that, in the first cycle, Ecuador accepted a recommendation to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. However we share the concerns of the Human Rights Committee regarding the persistence of stereotypes underpinning discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons and encourage Ecuador to take further steps to combat such prejudice, prohibit discrimination and to promptly investigate and prosecute any such acts of violence.

Ireland is concerned at reports of excessive use of force by law enforcement and security forces during the 2015 protests of indigenous peoples and other protests and demonstrations since the last review. Ireland **recommends** that Ecuador ensure training for law enforcement and security forces in relation to human rights standards in management of peaceful assemblies, ensure all allegations of excessive use of force and arbitrary detention against peaceful protesters are investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted.

Finally, we recall the crucial role of civil society in promoting and protecting all human rights. We share the concern of the Human Rights Committee in relation to restrictions on freedom of expression and association in Ecuador, including certain provisions of the Act on Communication, and at subjection of human rights defenders, journalists and other civil society actors to intimidation and threats of violence. We **recommend** that Ecuador create and maintain in law and in practice a safe and enabling environment for civil society, including through amending its laws to ensure compliance with article 19 ICCPR, full independence of the judiciary in line with international standards and ensuring that the judicial system is not used to restrict the work of human rights defenders.

Thank you