



**Statement of Ireland**  
**35<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group**  

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**Review of Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
**21 January 2020**

Thank you, Mr (Vice) President.

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and thanks them for their presentation.

Ireland acknowledges the efforts of Lao PDR to advance human rights domestically and commends the progress made since the last UPR cycle in relation to both human trafficking and the implementation of international human rights instruments.

Ireland welcomes the adoption by the Government of Lao PDR of the Law of the Treaties and International Agreements in 2017. We would encourage Lao PDR to take steps to further strengthen their national human rights framework by establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the Lao PDR authorities:

1. Refrain from initiating criminal proceedings against individuals for the peaceful exercise of their civil rights, including the right to privacy, freedom of expression, association and assembly, having regard to the importance of creating and maintaining a safe and enabling environment for journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society actors.
2. Enact legislation abolishing the death penalty for all crimes and in all circumstances following on from the 2018 revision of the Lao Penal Code, which reduces the scope of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed.

We wish the Lao People's Democratic Republic every success with this UPR cycle.

Thank you