

55.

14<sup>th</sup> Session Universal Periodic Review: Sri Lanka, 1 November 2012  
Oral intervention by Ireland

Thank you Madam President.

Ireland welcomes the Sri Lankan delegation and thanks them for the presentation of their comprehensive national report this afternoon.

Ireland commends Sri Lanka on the progress in implementing commitments made during the first Universal Periodic Review held in May 2008.

The National report points to Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-cultural character. Post conflict, Ireland urges Sri Lanka to accept the support, friendship and encouragement of the international community –as exemplified by the Role of the Human Rights Council – in strengthening and healing this fabric and building a strong human rights bedrock.

Ireland urges Sri Lanka to allow remaining detainees to either be tried or to begin a process of reintegration as a way forward.

Ireland is further concerned about the operation of the prevention against terrorism act and, particularly, the legal safeguards which are in place for persons suspected or charged under the prevention against terrorism act.

Furthermore, we urge full respect for the independence of the judiciary and share the concern expressed regarding reports relating to the impeachment of the Chief Justice.

Ireland recommends that the government of Sri Lanka take the necessary steps to ensure that all detainees are afforded a fair trial within a reasonable time period.

We also recommend that the Government of Sri Lanka inform the HRC, as part of the reporting process outlined in Paragraph 50 of the National Report, of implementation of LLRC recommendations.

Thank you Madam President.