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UN Human Rights Council – Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Zambia

Oral Intervention from Ireland

Read by -
Ms. Aideen Roche

Thank you Madam President.

Ireland thanks the delegation of the Republic of Zambia for the presentation of its national report. We acknowledge the progress made by Zambia in seeking to strengthen the protection and promotion of Human Rights since the first Universal Periodic Review.

Ireland was very pleased to collaborate recently with Zambia in hosting a side event at the 21st session of the Human Rights Council on creating space for civil society.

1. Gender equality

Ireland notes that since the 2008 UPR Review, Zambia has continued to recognise the importance of gender in national development. We welcome the mainstreaming of gender in the 6th National Development Plan; the establishment of a Ministry of Gender and Child Development, the enactment of the Anti-gender based violence Act and the appointment of women to a number of high level positions. However, we note that the number of female parliamentarians has fallen.

We regret that the process of domesticating the various human rights instruments highlighted in the 2008 review has not been completed and are hopeful this matter will be addressed through the current constitutional reform process.

Ireland recommends that the principle of equality and non discrimination be enshrined in the constitution without qualifications by avoiding any discriminatory clauses as the draft is finalised.

2. Freedom of Expression

In 2008, Ireland recommended that reform of the Criminal Code continue in relation to the prosecution of journalists. While this was rejected, Ireland recommends that Zambia takes the necessary steps to ensure that its legal system and policies are in full compliance with its international obligations in respect of freedom of expression and that the media and journalists are guaranteed the necessary freedoms to carry out their work independently and without fear of prosecution.