

UN Human Rights Council – Universal Periodic Review of Mali

Oral Interventions from Ireland

Thank you Mr President,

Ireland thanks Mali for its presentation this morning and for the submission of its national report. We acknowledge the difficult and challenging circumstances Mali is currently facing and the impact that the current crisis has on the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. Recognising the challenges posed by the current conflict, Ireland urges Mali to ensure the safety of all civilians and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance where possible. Ireland acknowledges the importance of international assistance and cooperation in this regard.

Ireland, nevertheless, welcomes measures adopted to improve prison conditions, including the adoption of a new strategy by the Ministry of Justice to address the issue of overcrowding and measures to educate relevant stakeholders through workshops and seminars. Ireland also welcomes efforts to expand coverage and access to services that prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child.

Ireland notes concerns regarding reports of torture, arbitrary detention and other ill-treatment of suspected opposition supporters by Malian security forces. Ireland recommends that Mali adopt and implement measures to ensure that international human rights standards are observed by the Malian Armed Forces, in particular the absolute ban on torture and ill-treatment and to ensure that all reports of torture and other ill-treatment are investigated effectively with those responsible being brought to justice.

Ireland also takes note of reports regarding the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed groups in the three large northern towns and in Timbuktu. Ireland recommends that Mali take all feasible measures to protect children from recruitment by state-allied and non-state armed groups, including contributing information, analysis and recommendations to the UN and other stakeholders to support and strengthen their efforts to ensure that international standards are upheld.