

UPR of Turkmenistan16<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working GroupIreland's Intervention

Thank you Mr President,

Ireland thanks the delegation of Turkmenistan for its presentation this morning. Ireland commends Turkmenistan for ratifying the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Stateless Persons since its first UPR and the recent amendment bringing its national definition of torture in line with article 1 of CAT.

Ireland welcomes the submission by Turkmenistan of a number of reports to UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies. We note the concerns of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture that their recommendations have not been implemented and we encourage Turkmenistan to establish an appropriate implementing mechanism. Ireland **recommends** Turkmenistan to permit visits from all ten UN Special Procedures who have requested a visit.

Ireland is deeply concerned at reports of severe restrictions on freedom of expression and association in Turkmenistan. We note concerns expressed by UNESCO, CAT, and the HRC about reports of intimidation, reprisals, harassment and widespread wrongful imprisonment of human rights defenders following unfair trials. Ireland urges Turkmenistan to promote an environment where individuals and both national and international NGOs can express diverse and critical views without fear of harassment, persecution or expulsion. Ireland **recommends** that Turkmenistan reform the Law on Public Associations to bring it in line with its obligations under the ICCPR, including by simplifying the legal and procedural requirements for registration by civil society organisations and minimising reporting obligations to authorities.

I thank you.