

(38)

UPR of Uzbekistan16th Session of UPR Working GroupIreland's Intervention

Thank you Mr President.

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Uzbekistan and thanks it for its presentation this morning.

Ireland commends the introduction in 2008 of the institution of habeas corpus and urges Uzbekistan to ensure that habeas corpus complies with international norms.

Ireland urges Uzbekistan to treat the issue of sterilisation of women with sensitivity and ensure that no sterilisation takes place without the full, prior and informed consent of women concerned.

While recognising that legislation has been introduced to address the issue of torture, Ireland remains seriously concerned at continuing reports of systematic torture in state detention facilities in Uzbekistan. Ireland **recommends** the full and effective implementation of recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on Torture in his 2003 report and the Committee against Torture in its concluding observations in 2011.

Ireland is particularly concerned about reports of severe restrictions on the activities of independent civil society. We are concerned at reports that human rights defenders are being harassed, wrongfully convicted and imprisoned. We **urge** Uzbekistan adopt the necessary policies and legislation to protect human rights defenders against harassment, arbitrary detention and violence. Ireland notes that Uzbekistan has agreed in principle to a visit by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and **recommends** that Uzbekistan now agree a precise and early date for the visit.

I thank you.