**UPR 17 – Chad**

**Statement by Ireland**

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Chad and expresses appreciation for its presentation, national report and engagement with the UPR process.

We are pleased to note the signature, since the last review, of several important instruments, including the Optional Protocols to the Convention Against Torture and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. We hope that these signatures will be perfected by ratification at an early date.

Ireland congratulates Chad on its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. However, cases of recruitment of children into the armed forces continue to be reported. Indeed, the situation of children in general, including with regard to participation in the education system, is one of serious concern. Ireland recommends that Chad implement the action plan signed with the United Nations in June 2011 to end current and prevent future recruitment and use of children in the armed forces, and adopt the draft child protection code criminalizing this under domestic law.

With regard to the freedoms of expression, association and assembly, Ireland recommends that Chad facilitate the development, in law and practice, of a safe and enabling environment in which both civil society and human rights defenders can operate free from fear, hindrance and insecurity.

We note with satisfaction that Chad has, since the last review, extended a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders. We encourage Chad to extend full cooperation to them and, in particular, to reply to their requests for information. We urge Chad to submit its overdue reports to human rights treaty bodies as quickly as possible.