**Malaysia – UPR 17**

**Statement by Ireland**

**24 October 2013**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Malaysia and thanks it for its presentation today.

In its response to a recommendation made at its last UPR to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture, Malaysia stated that it would be in a position to do so once major issues related to the legislative framework were resolved. Ireland recommends that Malaysia set a timeframe for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture.

Ireland notes the 2012 amendment to the Printing Presses and Publication Act, which removes the requirement for annual renewal of publication licenses and allows decisions on publishing permits to be challenged in court. Ireland remains concerned that the Act has been used to block publications considered hostile by the Government, continues to impose three years’ imprisonment for “maliciously published false news”, and obliges accused individuals to disprove guilt. Ireland recommends that Malaysia repeal the Printing Presses and Publication Act and take steps to ensure full respect and protection for freedom of opinion and expression.

I thank you, Mr. President.