



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**25<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC  
REVIEW**

**REVIEW OF IRELAND**

**11 MAY 2016**

**PALAIS DES NATIONS**

***Check against delivery***

Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Ireland to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its national report.

We commend Ireland for its commitment to the promotion and protection of human right; submitted a voluntary Interim Report and having enacted legislation to ensure that same-sex couples can marry. We have noted with appreciated the adoption of the Children (Amendment) Act 2015, repealing all parts of the current statute book that permitted the detention of children in adult prison facilities and further urged Ireland to reinstate the provisions regarding the age of criminal responsibility at 14 years as established in the Children Act 2001

We recommend that Ireland should:

1. **Withdraw its reservation on pertinent articles of the ICESCR, ICCPR and its 1<sup>st</sup> Optional Protocol, ICERD, CEDAW and CAT;**
2. **Withdraw its reservation on pertinent articles of the ICERD, ICESCR, ICCPR, and OP-CRC-AC; and**
3. **Adopt a national plan of action on human rights; and**
4. **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that includes all the grounds for discrimination;**

Finally, Mr. President, we wish Ireland success in their second review.

I thank you.