**Universal Periodic Review – 25th Session, 2-13 May 2016**

*Statement by the Republic of Cyprus in the review of*

*Ireland*

Mr. Vice President,

Cyprus congratulates the Irish authorities for the comprehensive report they have submitted and thanks H.E. Minister Frances Fitzgerald and the Irish Delegation for their informative presentations.

We wish to commend the Irish authorities for their effective work in further promoting adherence to human rights commitments since the first UPR cycle. We particularly welcome Ireland’s positive actions with regard to further entrenching children’s rights in the Constitution and enhancing their protection under Criminal Law.

Additionally, Cyprus praises Ireland’s efforts to strengthen the right to privacy, marriage and family life through the passing of several Acts since its last review and we note with satisfaction the establishment of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in 2014, with the aim of protecting and promoting human rights and equality in Ireland.

Finally, we would like to encourage Ireland to continue its committed efforts with a view to addressing any remaining human rights concerns and wish the Irish delegation a successful review.

I thank you.