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**Statement of Ireland**

**47th session of the UPR Working Group**

Review of Albania

**04 November 2024**

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

Ireland acknowledges Albania’s efforts to advance human rights domestically and notes good progress made since the last UPR cycle.

We welcome a number of initiatives enacted since the last cycle, includingthe creation of referral systems for cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence at municipality level, and the opening of new emergency shelters. We look forward to the full implementation of newly adopted guidelines for the investigation and prosecution of violence against women.

Ireland is concerned about persistent corruption, which remains a serious concern in Albania and one of the main challenges in the negotiations for its accession to the European Union.

Ireland recommends that Albania:

1. Amend the Criminal Code to incorporate a definition of rape based on lack of consent.
2. Revise the regime for the establishment of civil society organisations to make it easy, fast and inexpensive, so that underrepresented communities in particular can be better represented in various consultation processes, including those essential to Albania’s EU accession process.
3. Recognise same-sex unions, marriages and registered unions.

We wish Albania every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.