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**Statement of Ireland**

**41st session of the UPR Working Group**

Review of Tunisia

**8 November 2022**

Ireland thanks Tunisia for its presentation today.

Ireland welcomes efforts by Tunisia to combat gender-based violence, in particular the adoption of the national law to combat violence against women. We encourage Tunisia to work towards ratification of the Istanbul Convention and continue efforts to improve gender equality.

Ireland is concerned that LGBTI+ persons continue to be subjected to intrusive examination without medical justification, contravening obligations under the Convention against Torture, and despite the fact that recommendations on this issue were previously supported.

Ireland recommends that Tunisia:

1. Abolish the death penalty, including by: ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, revising the Penal Code, improving transparency of data related to death penalties, and commuting all existing death sentences.
2. Take all necessary steps to prevent violence against protesters, as well as the intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders and journalists, to protect the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

We wish Tunisia every success in this UPR cycle.