**36th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Panama**

**Statement of Ireland**

**03 11 2020**

Thank you, Madame President

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Panama and thanks them for their presentation today.

Ireland acknowledges Panama’s efforts to advance human rights domestically and welcomes progress made since the last UPR cycle.

In particular, we commend Panama on the progress made in the area of gender equality, including the expansion of the geographical reach of the National Institute for Women (INAMU), and the development of programmes to promote female entrepreneurship. However, we are concerned that the rates of violence against women and children remain unacceptably high.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the Panamanian authorities:

1. Adopt a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325, and ensure the incorporation of the Resolution’s provisions into domestic policies on gender equality.

2. Adopt specific legislation to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, and ensure accountability for those practising such discrimination.

We wish Panama every success with this UPR cycle

Thank you.