

Human Rights Council – 30th Session

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review of the USA

Statement by Ireland

24 September 2015

Mr President

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the United States of America and congratulates it for successful completion of its UPR review. We further applaud the close cooperation by the US with civil society in this process.

We welcome the US commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination and to addressing the use of excessive force in policing. The current civil investigations into police departments accused of excessive force are a positive step. We thank the delegations for its further comments on this issue today and we encourage the US to continue to vigorously prosecute all cases of police-led human rights abuses and to strengthen police-community relations.

However, we note with regret that the US has not accepted Ireland's recommendation to impose a moratorium on executions in advance of abolishing the death penalty nationwide. While we note the decline in its use, we continue to be deeply concerned about the arbitrary and discriminatory manner in which the death penalty is implemented. We also regret that the US Supreme Court has recently upheld the use of the lethal injection, despite evidence of cases where death by lethal injection has been both lengthy and painful. Ireland continues to encourage the US to reassess its position on the death penalty.

Finally, we encourage the US to submit a voluntary mid-term report on UPR implementation, as a large number of States, including Ireland, have done.

Thank you.