

## Universal Periodic Review – 22<sup>nd</sup> session

### Statement by Ireland on the Review of the Marshall Islands

11 May 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Marshall Islands and thanks it for its national report and presentation today.

Ireland welcomes the progress made by the Marshall Islands since its last review including the introduction of legislation on domestic violence and the right to education and the development of national policies on youth, gender and persons with disabilities. We further note developments in relation to the consideration of ratification of the core human rights treaties namely the ICCPR and ICESCR. Ireland hopes that the Marshall Islands will take steps to ratify these treaties as soon as is reasonably possible.

Ireland would like to thank the Marshall Islands for its leadership on climate change internationally and commend the steps taken domestically to address and mitigate the vulnerability of its population to the effects of climate change.

The detrimental legacy of nuclear weapons testing programmes and the resulting displacement and environmental and health related consequences for the Marshall Islands is deeply concerning. We recognise the efforts made in addressing this legacy, including through efforts relating to compensation. Ireland urges the Marshall Islands to implement the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on toxic waste following his country visit in 2012, particularly those relating to the development of a health strategy and plan of action to address the health concerns of the entire population.

Ireland is concerned at the low level of women's representation in politics and involvement in political life. Ireland **recommends** that the Marshall Islands adopt measures to facilitate greater representation of women in public office and improve the participation of women in political life.

While acknowledging the significant reduction in the mortality rates of infants and children under 5, we note that poor immunization cover, particularly in rural areas, as well as child malnutrition represent challenges to further reductions. Ireland **recommends** that the Marshall Islands take action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider applying the "Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age", A/HRC/27/31.

Thank you