

**Human Rights Council – 26<sup>th</sup> session (10-27 June 2014)**

**Statement by Ireland under agenda item 6 –  
Universal Periodic Review  
23 June 2014**

Mr. President,

The Universal Periodic Review is one of the most valuable innovations of this Council. My country attaches great importance to the regular and ongoing engagement of every Member State of the United Nations in a process of dialogue, on the basis of equality, on their actions to promote and protect human rights at the domestic level. I would like to take this opportunity to recall some points which, in our view, are key to the success of the UPR process.

First and foremost is the universal character of the process. This Council has so far succeeded in maintaining universal participation, and we very much hope that this will continue to be the case.

Second, it is important that all States, both those under review and those participating in the interactive dialogue, focus exclusively on human rights. The UPR process is not the place for raising bilateral issues, scoring political points or taking positions on recommendations based on the identity of the State making them, rather than on their content.

As pointed out by your predecessor in his letter of 18 September 2013, the Working Group report is of a factual nature and should reflect what was said in the room by the State under review and participating delegations. It is not an acceptable practice, in our view, for States under review to seek to negotiate changes to recommendations after they have been made. We have expressed in the past our opposition to this practice, and will continue to do so.

We call for due respect to be given to the respective roles of all stakeholders in the UPR process, whether it be States participating in the interactive dialogue in the UPR Working Group, civil society providing written views in advance and comments during the adoption procedure in the Council, national human rights institutions or UN bodies. The success of the UPR mechanism depends on its remaining a cooperative process conducted in full mutual respect of the roles and views of all participants.

We underline the importance of every State under review submitting its responses to recommendations in good time, and in any event in advance of the Council session at which the outcome of its review is to be adopted.

Ireland submitted a voluntary mid-term report on the implementation of the recommendations from our first review at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of this Council in March of this year. We encourage all States to adopt this practice, and look forward to further engagement with all States and other stakeholders in order to ensure the continued success of this important mechanism.

I thank you, Mr. President.