

Universal Periodic Review – 21st Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Kyrgyzstan

19 January 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Kyrgyzstan and thanks it for the presentation of its report.

We are pleased to note a number of positive developments since the first cycle review, including steps being taken to ensure that the office of the Ombudsman, as the national human rights institution, complies fully with the Paris Principles and achieves “A” status. We welcome the fact that Kyrgyzstan received visits by the then High Commissioner for Human Rights and other office holders. We encourage Kyrgyzstan to extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

During the first cycle review, Kyrgyzstan accepted a recommendation from Ireland to ensure that the independence of the judiciary was fully guaranteed in its legal framework. We are grateful for the extensive information provided on steps taken in the area of judicial reform. It is clear, however, that work remains to be done in this area. Ireland **recommends** that Kyrgyzstan take further steps to ensure, in law and in practice, the independence of the judiciary.

We are concerned by the reports of intimidation, reprisals and threats against human rights defenders that were highlighted by the Committee against Torture. Ireland **recommends** that Kyrgyzstan protect human rights defenders from intimidation and violence and that it ensure prompt, impartial and thorough investigation of allegations of harassment, torture and ill-treatment of human rights defenders.