Thank you, Mr. Vice President

Ireland warmly welcomes the delegation of Burkina Faso and thanks it for its presentation today.

We note the adoption of a law in March 2016 establishing a National Human Rights Commission and we encourage the Government to ensure that it is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

We also recognise the adoption of laws relating to the protection of children since the previous cycle, including the law on combating the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. We would urge that Burkina Faso continue to work towards a comprehensive child code in full compliance with the UNCRC.

Ireland welcomes the adoption in 2017 of the law on the protection of the rights of human rights defenders. However, we are concerned by the reports of threats, harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders. We would thus **recommend** the Government to take all measures to ensure that human rights defenders can operate free from hindrance and insecurity and that all allegations of such are subject to prompt, impartial and thorough investigation.

Ireland commends the Government on the adoption of various new laws on the protection of women including the law on the prevention, punishment and reparation of violence against women and girls and support for victims, and the national strategies on the eradication of FGM and the prevention and elimination of child marriage. These represent positive steps but we are concerned by the persistence of FGM, early and forced marriages and domestic violence. We would thus **recommend** that the government of Burkina Faso set the minimum age of marriage at 18 for women and men and for all forms of marriage. We would also urge that it undertake a comprehensive legal and cultural awareness-raising campaign on issues such as early and forced marriages, FGM and domestic violence.

We wish Burkina Faso every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you