

Universal Periodic Review – 22nd Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of the Maldives

6 May 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Maldives and thanks it for the presentation of its report and for the submission of a voluntary mid-term report in 2013.

While we note some positive actions on human rights since the first cycle, Ireland shares the concerns of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers in relation to a deterioration in the respect for the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

Ireland **recommends** that the Maldives provide adequate training for judges, including human rights training, to ensure all judicial proceedings conform to international fair trial standards, and take concrete measures to strengthen the impartiality and independence of the Judicial Services Commission, including through ensuring the composition and functioning of the Judicial Services Commission is in line with international principles of independence and accountability of the judiciary.

Ireland also **recommends** that the Maldives create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment, in which human rights defenders and civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, in accordance with Human Rights Council Resolutions 22/6 and 27/31.