

## 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review

### Review of Bangladesh

#### Statement of Ireland

14 May 2017

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

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

We commend the Government of Bangladesh for providing a safe haven as well as relief to the Rohingya refugees who fled the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, and welcome its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

We are concerned that certain legislative provisions impose unduly broad restrictions on freedom of expression and that the draft Digital Security Act appears to include a number of problematic elements. We **recommend** that Bangladesh review all existing and proposed legislation relating to freedom of expression, both online and offline, to ensure that it fully complies with the relevant international standards.

Ireland is also deeply concerned at reports of serious violence targeting human rights defenders in Bangladesh. We therefore **recommend** that Bangladesh ensure that investigations into cases of killings, abduction attempts, physical attacks and threats against HRDs are prompt, effective and impartial.

We wish Bangladesh every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.