



Statement of Ireland
42nd session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Gabon

24 January 2023

Ireland thanks Gabon for its presentation today.

Ireland welcomes Gabon's efforts to advance human rights and we encourage the new government to progress this further.

We commend Gabon's efforts to protect the rights of women and girls, including the introduction of reforms promoting women's participation in political life, and the introduction of criminal penalties for violent crimes committed against women.

Ireland is concerned at reports of continued restrictions to freedom of expression, including the use of digital surveillance during elections and the subjection of media workers and journalists to intimidation, censorship, and arbitrary practices.

Ireland recommends Gabon:

1. Create and ensure a safe and enabling environment for freedom of expression, by amending the Communications Code to ensure that it is in line with international best practices and standards on freedom of expression.
2. Ensure that human rights defenders, political opposition and journalists, who are exercising their right to freedom of expression, are not subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention.

We wish Gabon every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.