

29th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

(15-26 January 2018)

Review of Mali

Statement of Ireland

16 January 2018

Thank you, Mr President

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

We further note the progress made in many areas since the last UPR cycle.

Ireland welcomes the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in 2016 and encourages the Government to continue to take measures to ensure that the Commission fully complies with the Paris Principles.

We also welcome the recent adoption of a draft bill granting a number of rights to human rights defenders and we encourage the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that this law will be in line with international standards.

Ireland welcomes reports that since 2013, overall abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law by the security forces have decreased. However, abuses persist and some elements of the law on torture are not in line with international standards. Thus, we would **recommend** that Mali take all measures to ensure the compliance by its Armed Forces with international human rights standards, in particular the absolute ban on torture.

Ireland remains concerned about the continued reports of recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups in Mali. Ireland would thus **recommend** that Mali take all feasible measures to protect children from recruitment by State-allied and non-State armed groups.

We wish Mali every success in this UPR cycle.

Thank you.