



Statement of Ireland
36th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of Belarus

2 November 2020

Thank you, Madame President

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Belarus and thanks them for their presentation.

The human rights situation in Belarus has deteriorated alarmingly since the last UPR cycle, in particular in the run up to, and the aftermath of, the Presidential elections in August. Ireland is extremely concerned by mass and indiscriminate arrests and detentions, the use of State violence against peaceful protesters, forced exiles and reports of torture and ill-treatment of detainees, as well as restrictions on media freedom and civil society space.

Ireland makes the following recommendations to the Belarusian authorities:

1. Immediately, and unconditionally, release all political prisoners and human rights defenders and refrain from such detentions in the future.
2. Allow independent journalists and media to conduct their work free from harassment, intimidation and fear, and cease implementing internet shutdowns or restrictions.

We wish Belarus success in implementing the recommendations of this UPR cycle.

Thank you.