

Human Rights Council – 25th session (3-28 March 2014)

**Statement by Ireland on the adoption of the report
of the Universal Periodic Review of China**

20 March 2014

Mr. President,

Ireland welcomes the Chinese delegation and thanks China for its engagement with the UPR process. We thank China, in particular, for accepting both of the recommendations made by Ireland, as well as the majority of the recommendations which it received. We look forward to hearing from China in due course about the actions taken to implement the recommendations which it has accepted, and would encourage China, in this regard, to submit a voluntary mid-term report on the implementation of recommendations, as a large number of States, including my own, have done.

At the same time, we express deep concern about the fact that a well-known Chinese human rights defender, Ms. Cao Shunli, was detained by police at Beijing airport in September while on her way to Geneva to attend a training exercise connected with the UPR of China, and were very disturbed to hear that she recently died in China after her health deteriorated while in custody.

We recall that civil society is assigned an important role in the UPR process by this Council's resolution 5/1 and other relevant documents, and call on China, as we do on others, to respect this, and to ensure unhindered access to and communication with international bodies, in particular the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, including this Council and the UPR.

We continue to count on constructive cooperation with China as members of the Human Rights Council, to promote and protect human rights throughout both of our countries and the world.

I thank you, Mr. President.