



**Statement of Ireland**  
**42nd session of the UPR Working Group**  

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**Review of Guatemala**

**25 January 2023**

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

We note Guatemala's efforts to advance human rights domestically since the last UPR cycle.

Ireland welcomes the establishment of courts for the protection of children and adolescents and the reactivation of the National Coordination Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women.

We remain deeply concerned, however, by shrinking civil society space in Guatemala and the worrying trend with regard to the independence of the judiciary. Human rights defenders have an important role to play in ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights, therefore, we regret the need to repeat our previous concerns with regards to their safety.

**Recommendations**

Ireland recommends that Guatemala:

1. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the independence of the justice system, ensuring that the selection and appointment of magistrates, judges and prosecutors, the Attorney General and the Comptroller General are based entirely on an independent and transparent selection process.
2. Take all necessary measures to protect human rights defenders through the removal of legal and policy measures that inhibit their ability to carry out their vital work, without fear of interference, obstruction or harassment of any kind, including by introducing legislation and policies for the protection of human rights defenders, with strong participation by civil society and an adequate budgetary allocation.

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