



Statement of Ireland

45th session of the UPR Working Group

Review of the Republic of Congo

30 January 2024

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

Ireland welcomes the Congo's efforts to advance human rights domestically and notes progress made since the last UPR cycle, including advancements made in addressing violence against women and girls, such as passing the Mouebarara Act, and launching the National Programme to Combat Violence against Women.

Ireland remains concerned by reports of shrinking civil society space in the Congo, including the suspension of operating licences of media, and prosecutions, imprisonment and acts of police violence toward journalists.

We are also concerned by allegations of torture and ill-treatment resulting in the death of detainees, and the use of confessions extracted under torture.

Ireland recommends the Congo:

1. Take all necessary measures to promote and protect a safe and enabling environment to ensure civil society and human rights defenders can operate free from fear, hindrance and insecurity.
2. Ensure any acts of torture and ill-treatment committed by police, security and defence forces are thoroughly investigated and perpetrators are held to account.

We wish the Republic of Congo every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.