

27th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (1 May - 12 May 2017)

Review of Brazil

Statement by Ireland

5 May 2017

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

We welcome Brazil's emerging position allowing for same sex civil unions. We urge Brazil to formalise its position and expand on these steps taken to ensure full equality of LGBTI persons.

Ireland acknowledges the efforts made by Brazil in establishing a National Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in 2007 and the 2016 Programme to Protect Human Rights Defenders, however we are concerned at reports including continuing and increasing incidences of targeted extra-judicial killings of human rights defenders in Brazil and a worrying regression in the protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

Ireland **recommends** that Brazil take further steps to protect human rights defenders including those working in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples, including through ensuring impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation against HRDs and prosecution of all alleged perpetrators of such offences; and to fully implement the national programme to protect HRDs through the adoption of a specific legal framework, allocation of a budget and the setting up of multi-disciplinary teams to implement it;

Ireland welcomes steps taken to combat torture including the creation of a National System to Prevent and Combat Torture following the last review, however is concerned at accounts including by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture of torture, ill-treatment and violence, notably in January of this year, within prisons, the populations of which continue to grow.

Ireland **recommends** that Brazil ensure conditions at detention centres comply with international and Brazilian law and that particular attention is given to conditions faced by vulnerable prisoners including detained pregnant women, children and LGBTI persons; and further to provide human rights training to officials in the legal and judicial system.

Thank you.