Ireland welcomes the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Noting the detailed national report provided, Ireland welcomes this opportunity for dialogue.

Mr. President, this review takes place at a time when there is felt around the world – by peoples and governments alike – the very deepest concern at the human rights situation in Iran. Violations of basic human rights are taking place, including freedom of expression, association and assembly and the use of torture and the death penalty; it is a long litany of concerns that requires, in the view of my delegation, answers and requires actions.

1. **Human Rights Defenders**
UN special procedure mandate holders report widespread attacks and detentions of human rights defenders, which are an unacceptable affront to human dignity and to the right to freedom of opinion and expression. We deplore attempts to restrict the activities of individuals involved in peaceful demonstration and actions.

Ireland strongly recommends that Iran strengthens cooperation with NGOs and ensures that the rights of all those involved in human rights advocacy are protected under Iranian law in line with its obligations under the ICCPR and that freedom of association be enshrined in Iranian law.

2. **Death Penalty**
We note with very grave concern the high incidence of the death penalty in Iran and are deeply concerned at its use in the case of minors. Could the delegation outline what steps Iran will take to ensure an end to inhumane and/or public executions and the abolition of the death penalty for minors in line with its obligations under the CRC?

In this regard, Ireland recommends that Iran fully comply with its obligations under the ICCPR and the CRC.
3. Women’s Rights

Ireland is concerned about the serious gender equality deficiencies in Iran. Could the delegation outline what steps are being taken to reform discriminatory provisions of penal and civil laws, inter alia, women’s equal rights in marriage, access to justice and legal discrimination?

Ireland recommends that Iran accede to CEDAW.

4. Torture

Reports of the systematic torture of prisoners and people in detention in Iran continue, including those outlined in the OHCHR Compilation document.

Ireland recommends that the human rights of prisoners and detainees are respected and that any alleged abuses are investigated and stopped immediately; secondly, that Iran signs and ratifies the Convention against Torture; and finally, that Iran extends an early invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.