

## UPR Morocco

### Ireland

Ireland wishes to thank Morocco for its response to Ireland's written questions. Ireland notes that the Family Code stipulates that the legal age of marriage is 18 and welcomes the recent changes in the Moroccan constitution recognising gender equality. In that context, Ireland would wish to encourage Morocco to amend or update article 475 of the Moroccan Penal Code to bring it in line with the spirit of the Moroccan constitution.

Ireland welcomes Morocco's commitment to provide unqualified and unimpeded access to all special procedures (of the Human Rights Council) but remains concerned about the human rights situation in Western Sahara. Ireland is particularly concerned about reports of arbitrary arrest, detention and mistreatment of human rights defenders.

Ireland **recommends** Morocco give particular attention to all measures to improve the human rights situation in Western Sahara, in particular to develop and implement independent and credible measures to ensure full respect for human rights and guaranteeing such basic rights as freedom of association and expression.

Ireland **recommends** that independent and impartial inquiries are carried out with respect to allegations of mistreatment in detention and would welcome the inclusion of a broader human rights monitoring mechanism in the mandate of the UN Peace-keeping mission in Western Sahara.

Thank you Madame President.