



Statement of Ireland
42nd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

11 September 2019

Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We join others in thanking the High Commissioner for her address to the Council, and we restate our unequivocal support for the independence of her Office. We are also grateful for the updates provided on Myanmar, Gaza, Venezuela and all other country situations.

Madame High Commissioner,

Ireland shares your strong view that we, the global community, are facing a plethora of diverse and difficult human rights issues, both traditional and new. Of these newer challenges, the complexities of climate change are particularly acute. This is why in May this year, Ireland became the second country to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency.

Ireland strongly supports your assertion that “climate change undermines rights, development and peace”, and we also agree that an effective response to its devastating consequences, demands “broad and meaningful participation”. In this regard, we are greatly encouraged by, and applaud, the leadership shown by small island states in addressing the existential challenges posed by climate change. Ireland supports them in these efforts.

As we have agreed in adopting the 2030 Agenda, the challenges of poverty, inequality, human rights, climate change are interconnected and demand of us interconnected approaches and solutions. We believe therefore, that in tackling newer human rights challenges, including climate change, we need to integrate our response to more traditional challenges. These must include the ongoing restriction of civil society space, in every geographic region, which remains a source of grave concern to Ireland.

Ireland will continue therefore to defend the right of civil society and human rights defenders to contribute to debates and negotiations at this Council. Indeed, we believe that only when their voices are heard, will “broad and meaningful participation” be fully realised.

Thank you.