



**Statement of Ireland**  
**43rd session of the Human Rights Council**

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Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children

**3 March 2020**

Mr Vice-President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We welcome this opportunity to take stock of the achievements made in preventing and eliminating the sale and sexual exploitation of children, and the challenges that lie before us.

We were pleased to facilitate a country visit of the Special Rapporteur in 2018. Ireland is committed to combating sexual abuse, exploitation and the sale of children and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur enjoys our full support. We thank you, Mrs de Boer-Buquicchio, for your work over the last six years, and wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Ireland has introduced significant pieces of legislation to enhance the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation. These have constituted key steps to progress ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Lanzarote Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

In 2019, Ireland's first 'One House' service was launched, dedicated to providing services for children and adolescents who have suffered, or may have suffered, sexual abuse. This is one of many measures taken to further our commitment to protecting, safeguarding, and supporting children.

*Mr Vice-President, Ireland wishes to ask the Special Rapporteur; in light of your call for a global response to this issue, what areas of action should be prioritised by the international community over the next six years?*

Thank you