



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

High-level panel discussion commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World
Conference on Women

25 February 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union. Ireland thanks the members of the panel for their remarks today during this important discussion.

This year our annual Civil Society Forum in Ireland focussed on “Beijing +25: Taking Stock of Progress on Gender Equality”. We heard from speakers who had attended the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing and reflected on the progress made.

The major problem identified is that progress has not been fast enough. No country in the world has achieved gender equality. In an effort to accelerate the process, Ireland recently launched a Citizen’s Assembly on gender equality. We look forward to listening to their recommendations later this year.

Ireland sees education, particularly the education of adolescent girls, as the catalyst that can deliver on commitments to advance gender equality globally.

The Beijing Declaration exhorts Governments to “Advance the goal of equal access to education by taking measures to eliminate discrimination in education at all levels.” And yet, 25 years on, two thirds of all illiterate adults globally are women, 130 million girls worldwide are not in school and 96.5 million are excluded from secondary education.

Ireland recently launched a global call to action – the drive for five – to put a spotlight on adolescent girls’ education and to call on governments to commit to five transformative actions to get adolescent girls into school and learning.

In this context, we would like to ask the panel for their views on what more can be done to ensure access to education for adolescent girls?

Thank you.