



**Statement of Ireland**  
**44<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

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Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Human Rights

**1 July 2020**

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the High Commissioner for her oral update to the Council, and for the many important reports presented to this Session of the HRC. Ireland remains a staunch supporter of the Office of the High Commissioner and of its independence.

Madam High Commissioner,

Yesterday, in addressing the Council, you highlighted the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome your call for States to *“support the work of multilateral institutions that are struggling to assist countries and people in this crisis.”*

Ireland is firmly of the view that a global pandemic requires a global response, and that multilateralism, and a strong United Nations, must be at the heart of that response.

We believe that a properly resourced and dynamic United Nations, including the vital human rights pillar, continues to offer the best platform to unite us a global community as we seek to provide a better future for all.

In this context, Ireland wholeheartedly endorses the Secretary-General’s *Call to Action for Human Rights*, presented to the Council in February. We particularly welcome the strong emphasis in the Call to Action on the importance of public participation and a vibrant civic space.

*Madam High Commissioner, as the global community navigates its way through this pandemic, what concrete steps can States take to realise the ambition of the Secretary-General’s Call to Action?*

Thank you.