

Human Rights Council 38th Session

Clustered ID with the Special Rapporteur on summary executions and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression

19th June 2018

National Statement of Ireland

Thank you Mr Vice President.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the EU and wishes to add the following.

Ireland welcomes both Special Rapporteurs and thanks them for their presentations today.

Ireland thanks the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression for his report looking at freedom of expression both offline and online. Ireland supports the affirmation that rights of freedom of expression offline apply equally online.

We believe that the internet is an incredibly valuable tool for the promotion of human rights and development. Digital access providers can play an important role in allowing users to seek, receive and impart information, enabling the exercise of freedom of expression online. We share the concerns of the Special Rapporteur that it is not always clear that companies protect the online rights of their users. We support the Special Rapporteur and the UN Guiding Principles which set down that companies should ensure that they meet “global standard[s] of expected conduct” in their work.

We support the Special Rapporteur’s recommendation that National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights can provide a baseline to companies on how they should promote human rights and the responsibilities they have in doing so. Ireland launched its own National Action Plan in November 2017.

Mr Special Rapporteur,

How can we further encourage companies to recognise the responsibility they have to uphold human rights norms?