

Human Rights Council 38th Session

Item 2 General Debate

19th June 2018

National Statement of Ireland

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union

Mr (Vice) President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his forthright address to the Council.

He demonstrated the qualities which have characterised his term as High Commissioner: courage, conviction, independence and principle.

We pay tribute to his tireless and fearless work for human rights over the last four years.

We share many of the concerns articulated in his address.

We too are troubled by threats to the universal values which are the bedrock of multilateralism.

We believe that this rules-based system, must be protected. It has been the basis for global stability for over 70 years, and it enables us to work together to protect the human rights of all people.

All States – both inside this room and, more importantly, outside of it – must make a meaningful commitment to engage with the Human Rights Council.

Ireland strongly supports the High Commissioner's call for States to cooperate with, and provide access to, the mechanisms of the Council, be they Commissions, Fact Finding Missions, Special Procedures or other.

Ireland was pleased to welcome the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children to Ireland last month.

Mr (Vice) President,

States also have a responsibility to ensure that civil society and human rights defenders can operate in an enabling environment at home and internationally – engaging with the Council without fear of reprisal or retribution.

For this Session, Ireland is prioritising a draft resolution supporting civil society space. We are working closely with the core group of Chile, Japan, Tunisia and Sierra Leone to prepare the resolution for presentation to the Council.

Thank you