

Human Rights Council 39th Session

Annual Discussion on the Integration of a Gender Perspective

24th September 2018

National Statement of Ireland

[Ireland aligns with the EU statement and adds the following]

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland would like to thank the members of the panel for their remarks today and commend them all for their efforts, in bringing a gender sensitive approach to this vital work.

The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals is crucial and the SDGs cannot be achieved unless they are underpinned by a strong human rights-based approach.

During the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, Ireland advocated for gender equality to be reflected across the framework and for it to include a specific stand-alone goal on gender equality.

Ireland is committed to intensifying our international cooperation on gender equality and actions under the SDGs. We continue to promote gender equality across our foreign policy priorities and recognise that grass roots women's organisations who promote the basic human rights of women and girls should substantially contribute to the full realisation of the SDGs.

Ireland was elected to the Commission on the Status of Women in 2016 and will act as Chair of the Commission for 2018 and 2019. As part of our candidacy we pledged to enhance the Commission's contribution to the wider 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We recognise that more concerted efforts are required to integrate women's perspectives and needs across all the SDGs

Without quality data, there is no credible way of knowing if progress is being made on sustainable improvements to the lives of women and girls: this is particularly the case in crisis and conflict situations.

This is why Ireland supports the UN Women's Statistical Programme, *Making Every Woman and Girl Count*, which invests in gathering accurate gender- related data and statistics.

In the context of work with victims, Ireland would like to ask the panel, how States might work in partnership with women's movements and women's organisations at a grassroots level to improve data collection that can better inform a gender-sensitive approach to investigations?

Thank you.