



Statement of Ireland
Second intersessional meeting of the Human Rights Council
on human rights and the 2030 Agenda

Session 3: Human rights and SDG implementation at the national level

3 December 2019

Thank you, Mr President.

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

We warmly welcome this intersessional meeting, and thank the co-sponsors of the Resolution which mandated it.

Ireland's ambition is to play a continued leadership role in transforming our world, including through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We hope to continue building on the key role Ireland played in facilitating the adoption of these global goals, in a way that best respects the vision to leave no-one behind, and to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

Ireland's international development programme is, and historically has always been, focused on the need to protect the most vulnerable in society. Fresh thinking is required to contribute to the SDGs' transformative ambition and the call to 'Leave No One Behind'. The evolving global context, marked by conflict, the threat of climate change, extreme violence against women and girls and growing inequality will require an integrated and whole of society approach underpinned by a focus on gender equality, reducing humanitarian need, climate action and governance.

The focus of this session is welcome in light of the 'whole of society approach' taken in the 2030 Agenda. This whole of society approach demands a shift in how we communicate with and mobilise citizens about our development cooperation and humanitarian action, through development education, public outreach and deeper parliamentary engagement. The full realisation of human rights is also central to the 'whole of society' approach taken in the 2030 Agenda.

Ireland's **Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020** was published in April 2018 and reflects a 'whole-of-Government' approach to the SDGs. Through its **four Strategic Priorities** including stakeholder engagement, public awareness, national implementation and policy coherence it is moving towards a whole of society approach.

In June 2018, Ireland established a National SDG Stakeholder Forum to bring together those working on, or involved in, promotion of the SDGs across Ireland and abroad. The Forum allows a unique opportunity for policy makers, civil society, business, academia and other interested parties to come together to share experiences and information on SDG related activities taking part at a national and international level. An SDG Champions programme was also launched in September 2019, with champion organisations being appointed from across all aspects of society to drive forward Ireland's progress towards the SDGs.

Ireland thus recognises the importance of including the broadest range of stakeholders in our implementation of the Goals. The integrated approach taken to our national implementation of the SDGs runs also through our foreign policy. Our new development policy, A Better World, was informed by engagement with civil society, and contains strong commitments to the 2030 Agenda through development cooperation.

We would welcome thoughts from the panel on best practices in facilitating a whole of society approach in implementing the SDGs and on how to ensure that human rights remain at the heart of Agenda 2030 at all levels of implementation.

Thank you