

HRC Intersessional Meeting: Human Rights & the 2030 Agenda

Geneva, 16 January 2019

Statement by Ireland

Thank you Mr President

Ireland aligns with the statement by the European Union.

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

Together, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 provide the essential framework for the future of our people and our planet. They commit us to leaving no-one behind and reaching the furthest behind first. The speakers and panellists today have demonstrated the urgency of reflecting now on how we are implementing these historic and ambitious agreements.

Implementation of the transformative agenda represented by the Sustainable Development Goals presents unprecedented challenges, but they must be embraced.

Ireland particularly welcomes the emphasis on “inclusiveness” in today’s discussion.

The 2030 Agenda is necessarily a broad one. It is predicated on the promotion and protection of human rights without discrimination. It recognises repeatedly that there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development. The Agenda and its Goals will not be achieved unless underpinned at every step by a clear human rights approach.

As the UN therefore, we must ensure that human rights are central to the effort of the system overall, including the wider reform agenda.

The 2030 Agenda demands a wholly integrated approach to all our work: development and trade, peace and security, humanitarian action, climate, disarmament, based on our commitment to human rights and to gender equality. In the sphere of human rights, therefore, it is clear that we must spare no effort in integrating all the strands of our work both in Geneva and New York.

And we must include the broadest range of stakeholders. We are committed to “empowering people” and must therefore include the lived experience of individuals, as represented through the voice of civil society.

Ireland has recognised this nationally.

Engagement with civil society was a central feature in the development of our national implementation plan for the SDGs, published last year. In addition, engagement with civil society has informed the preparation of our new development policy, to be launched in the coming weeks.

And of course, internationally, we will continue to champion and promote the participation of civil society.

In that regard, we would welcome thoughts from the panel on how civil society participation can be supported at the HLPF in New York.

Thank you