**Questionnaire**

**SR on the promotion and protection of human rights and**

**fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

**Soft law instruments**

**Ireland’s Response**

**July 2019**

Ireland has consistently advocated that there is no conflict between fighting terrorism and respecting human rights and that full respect should be paid to human rights when implementing counter-terrorism (CT) measures.

In light of this, we have supported UN Security Council resolutions which have affirmed that States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law.

In this regard, Ireland backed the adoption of UNSCR 1452 in December 2002 which allowed for financial support to provide for basic human needs for suspected terrorists whose assets had been frozen under Resolutions 1267, 1333 and 1390.

Ireland has recommended that close attention should be paid to the views of human rights experts, including the Special Procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council. Ireland has also consistently stated its full support for the recommendations of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Ireland supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism and consistently welcomes opportunities to engage with it. Ireland particularly welcomes the focus the Special Rapporteur has given to the relationship between entrenched emergency powers and sustained human rights violations given that states of emergency have long been co-related with extensive and wide-ranging human rights violations.

As a member of the core group on civil society space, Ireland would also like to thank the Special Rapporteur for focusing her latest HRC report on civil society space and human rights defenders. As the Special Rapporteur pointed out in her report, the use of vague, repressive and overly broad legislation to target civil society actors and curtail civic space is wholly inconsistent with meaningfully attending to genuine terrorist threats.

Ireland has extended an invitation to all Special Procedures mandate holders to visit Ireland and we once again extend the invitation to the Special Rapporteur.