



Statement of Ireland

77th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

General Discussion on the Advancement of Women

Mr Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a key priority for Ireland. We are deeply concerned by the ways in which women's rights are coming under increased threat globally.

Worsening crises such as climate change and conflicts around the world are exacerbating gender inequalities, as they have disproportionate impacts on women and girls. It is therefore pivotal that we work to remove structural barriers preventing women and girls from playing their crucial role as agents of change in responding to these crises. The facts are clear – peace agreements are far more durable, sustainable and effective when women are included, and this is something that we have seen first-hand through our own experience with the peace process in Northern Ireland. However, the world is still far from parity on women's representation in decision-making. We all must do more to ensure women's full, equal, and meaningful participation.

Ireland is working to advance this through championing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. We have been promoting WPS throughout our work on the Security Council, including by striving to ensure the inclusion of gender-related provisions in all ceasefire and peace agreements, and are proud to work alongside Mexico as co-chairs of the Informal Expert Group on WPS.

We also work to create a safe and enabling environment to facilitate the vital work of women human rights defenders and civil society representatives, and strongly condemn the persistence of reprisals against those who engage with the United Nations. Hearing the voices of all also necessitates a strong and fair rules-based international order with the United Nations at its core, which is why Ireland will continue to build consensus and to advocate fiercely for the multilateral system. We also seek to ensure a diversity of voices domestically, and will work to respond to each recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality, the most recent exercise in deliberative democracy in Ireland.

The advancement of women has positive impacts for all of society. Gender equality is both an objective and driver of sustainable development, and essential for building peaceful and inclusive societies. This is why Ireland is committed to mainstreaming gender equality throughout our foreign policy, including in our official development assistance and through our work on the SDGs.

Chair, women are not a homogenous group and different women experience gender inequality differently. Some experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. In order to truly promote the advancement of all women and girls in all their diversity, Ireland takes a holistic and transformative approach. We recognise that achieving gender equality involves going beyond looking at individual women and girls and requires approaches that address underlying discriminatory gender norms and broader inequalities.

A particular barrier to the advancement of women is sexual and gender-based violence. The upcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women provides a good opportunity to strengthen work on preventing violence against women and girls in digital contexts. At the Security Council, Ireland works to ensure that prevention of and protection from SGBV are embedded into the operational provisions of all peace operations mandates. Domestically, we recently launched our Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, which advocates for a cross-governmental and whole-of-society approach.

Access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights is another essential aspect of achieving gender equality and the advancement of women. Ireland is committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence, including through access to comprehensive sexuality education.

Mr Chair,

As part of our commitment to achieving an equal, peaceful and sustainable world, Ireland will continue to work tirelessly for equal rights for, and the advancement of, women and girls in all their diversity.