

**Human Rights Council – 30th session
(14 September – 2 October 2015)**

Item 3 General debate

17 September 2015

Statement by Ireland

Mr. President,

Ireland wishes to add some remarks to those already made on our behalf in the statement of the European Union.

We thank the High Commissioner and his Office, as well as the Secretary-General, for the various reports submitted under this agenda item. We have already expressed our views on several of them in interactive dialogues held during the past few days. We propose therefore to refer here to a number of reports not addressed by us elsewhere.

We welcome the report of the very useful high-level panel discussion on the death penalty held during the 28th session of the Council in March of this year. In our view, the Human Rights Council should continue to be a forum for such discussions, in order to promote what the panel described as the international community's responsibility to move towards universal abolition of the death penalty. Ireland firmly believes that the abolition of the death penalty is an essential element of the protection of human dignity, as part of the overall protection of human rights for all. Also from the point of view of human dignity, we would like to highlight the importance of transparency with regard to the imposition and use of the death penalty, including the provision of adequate and timely information to convicted persons, their lawyers, family members and others concerned.

We regret that the report of the panel discussion on terrorism was not made available in due time (*A/HRC/30/64 - not available 14/9*). We were glad that during that discussion, the strong and long-standing international consensus was reaffirmed, that while States are entitled, and indeed are obliged, to take action to protect their populations against acts of terrorism, they must, when doing so, comply strictly with their human rights obligations.

Under the heading of discrimination against women, we welcome the submission of reports on the very useful panel discussion on the right of girls to education and on the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women, which focused on the elimination and prevention of domestic violence against women and girls and on women's human rights and participation in power and decision-making. We underline the importance of States' implementation of their obligation to respect and protect the human rights of all without distinction or discrimination, and the role of this Council and its Universal Periodic Review mechanism as a forum for exchange of experience and best practice in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. President.