

**Human Rights Council – 30<sup>th</sup> session  
(14 September – 2 October 2015)**

**Item 5 General Debate**

**22 September 2015**

**Statement by Ireland**

Ireland aligns itself with the remarks made on our behalf by the European Union, as well as the Joint Statements delivered by Latvia on standing invitations to special procedures and by Ghana on reprisals, and adds the following:

Mr President,

Ireland welcomes the **Secretary General’s Report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights**. We fully agree with the Secretary General that the targeting of individuals or groups for cooperating with the UN “runs contrary to the principle of human dignity and violates numerous human rights, showing complete contempt and disregard for the United Nations system as a whole.” We are deeply disturbed that the types of acts reported seem to have become more varied and severe over time, targeting not only the individuals or groups concerned but also their families, legal representatives, non-governmental organisations and anyone linked to them. It is also extremely worrying that the report suggests that acts of reprisal are often perpetrated by government officials or representatives of the State.

It is the primary obligation of the State to protect those who cooperate with the UN and to ensure that they may do so safely and without hindrance, in accordance with the State’s obligation to respect and fully protect the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, association and peaceful assembly.

Ireland joins the Secretary General in urging all States to follow up and provide information, as appropriate, to the Human Rights Council on all measures taken, including on cases mentioned in the present report.

Mr President,

Ireland also welcomes the **Communications Report of Special Procedures**. Communications are a crucial tool of Special Procedures to raise issues of concern or clarification and for States to draw on the expertise of the Special Procedures. Ireland views Communications in this spirit and endeavours to respond promptly and fully to all Communications received. In that vein, we have responded to the Communication detailed in the Report.

We were disappointed that it was not possible to reach agreement on a consensus text at the third session of the **IGWG on a draft United Nations declaration on the right to peace**. As we have clearly stated in the past, we do not agree there exists in law a right to peace, either as an individual or collective right. Nonetheless, we considered that a constructive result to the work of the IGWG was possible, with a text identifying and clearly underscoring the linkages between peace, human rights and development. We were close to agreement and regret that some partners were not in a position to display the same levels of flexibility, so as to achieve a consensus text in this, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations.

Thank you