

Human Rights Council - 26th session
(10th June – 27th June 2014)

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational
corporations and other business enterprises and
the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of
the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**

11 June 2014

Statement by Ireland

Ireland welcomes the **Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**, Mr Anand Grover. We thank him for his Report on unhealthy foods, non-communicable diseases and the right to health.

One of the three goals of Ireland's policy for international development entitled '*One World, One Future*' is 'Reduced hunger' and 'stronger resilience'. In a global context where almost one billion people are hungry, it is difficult to overstate the importance of the right to food and of combating malnutrition. It is particularly in this light that we acknowledge the contribution made by the Special Rapporteur's work in this area.

We welcome the focus of the Report on children as one of the vulnerable groups with respect to non-communicable diseases. This has clear significance to the ongoing work of the Office of the High Commissioner which, in conjunction with the WHO and other stakeholders, is now working to finalise technical guidance on the practical application of a human rights based approach to under five mortality and morbidity, for presentation to the Council's 27th session in September 2014.

In the Report, emphasis is placed on the role of the food industry and transnational corporations in the rise in non-communicable diseases. In this context, we would be interested to hear the views of the Special Rapporteur on *whether he sees a role for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the fight against non-communicable diseases*.

I now turn to the **Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises**. In the three

short years since its establishment, the Working Group has achieved a great deal in its efforts to disseminate and promote implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Ireland is strongly committed to the Guiding Principles. While cognisant of the scale of its task, we are also supportive of the Working Group's multidimensional work and hope to see its mandate renewed by consensus later this month.

Ireland published its National Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility for 2014-2016, entitled '*Good for Business, Good for the Community*' in April of this year. Among other elements, it acknowledges the importance of aligning the National Plan with relevant international frameworks, including the Guiding Principles.

In addition, Ireland is developing its approach on how best to formulate a National Plan to implement the Guiding Principles. We look forward to reading the Working Group's Report to the 69th session of the General Assembly and to constructive engagement with the Working Group on this issue in the future as we continue our important work, individually and collectively, to implement the Guiding Principles.

We note that the topic of remedies will be a focus of the Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights in December 2014. We would welcome any further information as to how the Working Group sees this focus manifesting itself in the proceedings of the Annual Forum.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson