

Human Rights Council 38th Session

Item 5 – General Debate

28th June 2018

National Statement of Ireland

[Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and adds the following.]

Mr President,

Ireland reiterates its strong and lasting commitment to the UN human rights system, and to the vital contribution of civil society and human rights defenders to its work.

We remain profoundly concerned at reports of reprisals and acts of intimidation targeting individuals seeking to engage with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms, as well as their families, their organisations and any other person linked to them.

Ireland is particularly troubled by reports of reprisals against civil society representatives seeking to engage in recent sessions of the UPR, as well as in the pre-sessions organised by UPR Info.

Ireland was pleased to be part of the core group which secured a resolution on reprisals at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council.

We look forward to the Secretary-General's annual report on reprisals at the 39th session, and to participating in the interactive dialogue which will follow its presentation. We once again urge all States to cooperate fully with Assistant Secretary-General Andrew Gilmour in his work on this issue. We also welcome the close attention paid to this issue by the President of the Council.

As we mark the 70th anniversary of the UDHR and the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, it is incumbent on all States to take all appropriate measures to prevent the occurrence of acts of intimidation or reprisal, and to ensure accountability for any such acts.

Thank you.