

Human Rights Council – 26th session
(10 - 27 June 2014)
General Debate Items 2/3
16 June 2014
Ireland Statement

Thank you Mr. President.

Ireland expresses its warm appreciation to the High Commissioner and her Office as well as to the Secretary General for the thematic reports under items 2 and 3.

We particularly welcome the report on the activities of the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. Ireland is proud to be a contributor to the Trust Fund and has already contributed €260,000 this year. We strongly encourage other States to consider similarly making a contribution. Despite the increasing global focus on violence against women and girls, systematic violations continue. Therefore, the support given by the Trust Fund to local, national, regional and cross-regional programmes is crucial. Participatory approaches which mobilise communities are at the core of the work of the Fund. As detailed in the Report, the programmes supported by the Trust Fund have shown the potential for real and sustainable impact, through transforming behaviour and practices.

Ireland is strongly committed to the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and is currently developing its approach on how best to formulate a National Plan to implement them. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the challenges, strategies and developments with regard to the implementation of the Guiding Principles by the UN system. This is a vital measure, complementary to the implementation activities of States, to ensure that the actions of the UN in fields such as investment and procurement are consistent with the business and human rights standards we have agreed, as well as more generally in our overall efforts to mainstream and embed human rights throughout the UN system.

Ireland thanks the Office of the High Commissioner for the Summary Report of consultations held on the draft basic principles on the right to effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons. Trafficking in person is an appalling crime, a serious violation of human rights and an affront to the dignity of the human person. Cooperation between Governments and civil society is vital in the identification of victims and the implementation of recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration measures. Ireland's first *National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat the Trafficking of Human Beings* was put in place in 2009. A Second National Action Plan is currently being prepared.

We also warmly thank the Special Procedures for their Communications Report to this session. Communications are an essential tool for the work of all mandate holders and have a strong protective dimension. They are used not only to highlight urgent cases which require the immediate attention of States, but also to make suggestions regarding legislative and policy developments. Ireland strongly urges all States to respond promptly and substantially to the communications transmitted to them by Special Procedures.

Thank you Mr President.