

**Human Rights Council 39th session
(10-28 September 2018)**

Item 2 General Debate

Statement of Ireland

11 September 2018

Mr. (Vice) President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We add our thanks to the High Commissioner for her address to the Council. Ireland warmly welcomes her appointment, and the experience and commitment she brings to the role. We will stand with her, in support of her office and her mandate, which requires that she highlight human rights violations and abuses wherever they happen.

We share the concerns set out by the High Commissioner in her address. Multilateralism, which has underpinned global stability for the last 70 years, is under threat. The rules-based system needs our protection and active support.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda three years ago demonstrated the power of multilateral engagement and the true potential of the United Nations, acting in the interests of our people and our planet. We echo the High Commissioner's statement that "human rights express the core purpose of the United Nations". A strong focus on human rights is not an option; it is central to the achievement of peace and security, and of the Sustainable Development Goals.

70 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we reaffirm that States have a responsibility to ensure that the victims of human rights violations and abuses remain at the heart of our work in the Council. To this end, all stakeholders, including civil society and human rights defenders, must be enabled to engage freely and meaningfully with the Council and its mechanisms, without fear of reprisal or retribution.

Thank You