

Human Rights Council 39th Session (10 – 28 September 2018)

Item 3 – General Debate

Statement of Ireland

14 September 2018

[Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.]

Mr Vice President,

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner and her Office for the full range of reports submitted under this agenda item which address many issues of priority for Ireland at the Human Rights Council.

Due to time constraints, we will limit our remarks to two reports.

Ireland warmly welcomes the High Commissioner's summary report from the expert meeting on **experiences in applying a human rights-based approach to address mortality and morbidity among newborns and children under 5 years of age** (A/HRC/39/25). We remain deeply concerned that, each year, millions of children still die from preventable and treatable causes. The High Commissioner's report to this session provides further evidence that a human rights-based approach to health care, incorporating the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and equality, is essential to improving child mortality outcomes. We note with concern the report's findings regarding the groups of children who are most at risk.

Ireland looks forward to continuing work with our fellow core group members, as well as OHCHR, WHO, civil society partners and other stakeholders, to promote a human rights-based approach to tackling mortality and morbidity among newborns and children under 5 years of age.

We also welcome the report on the **draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs** (A/HRC/39/28). We highlight

in particular its recommendation that the legitimate and vital role of civil society actors regarding participation in public affairs should be recognised.

Thank you.