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## **Statement of Ireland**

### **52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on minority issues*

**23 March 2023**

Madam Vice- President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

The thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to Minorities was a key moment to reflect on progress for minority rights. While we acknowledge some achievements since its adoption, we are particularly concerned by the Special Rapporteur's assessment of the disparities that still remain with regards to the promotion and protection of rights of persons belonging to minorities within the UN system.

The inclusive participation of all persons belonging to minorities in all aspects of society is essential, including in international fora. We acknowledge the need for minorities to be facilitated to participate and speak on their own behalf at UN bodies on issues that affect them. It is also critical that the UN system mainstreams the protection of the rights of minorities across all activities to ensure that no one is left behind.

This week, Ireland launched our National Action Plan against Racism, which has integrated inclusive strategies to address the needs and challenges facing ethnic minorities in Ireland. The plan makes clear that Ireland must take a stand against discrimination, to ensure that ethnic minorities have equal opportunities and are respected and esteemed in all parts of their lives.

*Special Rapporteur, have you identified best practices in the promotion of inclusive dialogue and participation of persons belonging to minorities in decision-making?*

Thank you.