



Statement of Ireland

76th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of persons with disabilities, Mr Gerard Quinn

21 October 2021

Thank you Chair.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report and for his presentation today.

Armed conflict has massive and devastating implications for civilians and disproportionately impacts persons with disabilities, who comprise an estimated 15% of any given population. Yet as the report sets out, persons with disabilities tend to be rendered invisible by policies and practices dealing with peace and conflict, and the focus remains on protection rather than participation. Ireland joins the Special Rapporteur in calling for the active inclusion and meaningful participation of those with disabilities in conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Security Council Resolution 2475 and the SDGs all advance important values of protection, personhood, equality and true engagement. Ireland welcomes the Convention's holistic view of "protection", grounded upon active human agency. We particularly welcome the Special Rapporteur's call to routinely consider language on disability rights across all Security Council resolutions, and we were pleased to host a workshop for Security Council members with the Special Rapporteur in June to advance this goal.

As a champion of Women, Peace and Security, Ireland welcomes the Special Rapporteur's suggestion to use WPS as a possible model for inclusion. We further note the need for an intersectional approach, recognising that persons with disabilities face different kinds of overlapping vulnerabilities, which are especially evident during conflicts.

Special Rapporteur, your report notes that although many ex-combatants have acquired a disability during conflict, disarmament programmes historically have not been disability-

inclusive. What sort of guidance would you like to see in the forthcoming Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards?

256 words