

HRC26: Protection of the Family

Intervention by Ireland supporting a No vote on A/HRC/26/L.20/Rev1 on the Protection of the Family

Mr President,

- Ireland attaches great importance to family-related issues. We recognise the crucial role of parents, care givers and families in improving outcomes for children and young people, the important role of families concerning responsibility and care for the elderly and the need to provide support for families to do so.
- Families can provide an important framework to assist in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly of the family members themselves.
- We share the view of many in this room about the valuable contribution that families make to strengthening our societies and the need to develop policies to support their role. But for these policies to be successful, they must also be inclusive.
- A family is a living, dynamic entity, and can take many forms. We believe that we must all recognise this diversity, and indeed we have done consistently over many years in many UN resolutions which recognise that in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. We regret that the resolution before us today fails to take account of the various forms of families, which are a vital part of all of our societies.
- It is for these reasons that Ireland will be voting against this resolution, and we urge all Council Members to do so