

Human Rights Council – 25th session

Explanation of vote by Ireland on draft resolution L.32 (“Ensuring use of remotely piloted aircraft or Armed Drones in Counter-terrorism & Military Operations in accordance with International Law including International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law”)

28 March 2014

Mr. President,

My country believes that the Human Rights Council is an appropriate venue to discuss all issues relating to possible human rights violations, including possible human rights violations resulting from the use of armed remotely piloted aircraft, or drones. We appreciate the work on this issue of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and of the Special Rapporteur on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as their relevant reports to this Council and to the General Assembly. These reports have raised a number of issues which we believe would benefit from further analysis and discussion. This is why Ireland will vote in favour of draft resolution L.32. We look forward to a thorough consideration of all relevant issues during the panel discussion which, in accordance with the draft resolution, will be organised during the 27th session of the Human Rights Council.

I thank you, Mr. President.