



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **40th session of the Human Rights Council**

*General Debate on Item 5: Human Rights bodies and mechanisms*

**13 March 2019**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr. President,

Ireland is a strong supporter of the UN's human rights mechanisms. We reiterate our commitment to engage with the UN Human Rights Council and all other UN human rights bodies and mechanisms and we call on all other States to do the same.

We encourage all States to issue a standing invitation to all mandate holders.

Ireland welcomes the annual report, and we thank in particular the important work of the Coordination Committee. Ireland firmly believes that if our multilateral system is to function effectively then the contribution of civil society, particularly their engagement with mandate holders, is of critical importance to their work.

We therefore echo the concerns voiced by High Commissioner Bachelet at this Council session about reprisals against human rights defenders and civil society organisations cooperating with UN human rights bodies and processes. We are also troubled by the findings of the UN Secretary-General's annual report on reprisals, presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Council, which highlights the alarming trend of acts of intimidation and reprisal against those engaging with UN human rights mechanisms such as Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review.

Ireland once again urges all States to take all appropriate measures to prevent the occurrence of acts of intimidation or reprisal and to ensure accountability for any such acts, which not only violate the rights of individuals, but undermine the credibility and effectiveness of the UN human rights system as a whole.

Thank you.