



Statement of Ireland

51st session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU. We thank the Working Group for its report and work throughout the year, despite continued challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, and for highlighting the issue of older persons and arbitrary detention.

We note with deep concern that the Working Group continues to receive information about reprisals suffered by individuals who have been the subject of an urgent appeal, or an opinion, or whose cases have given effect to a recommendation of the Working Group. The Working Group must be able to highlight such cases without the threat of reprisals to the subjects.

We share the concerns of the Working Group on the issue of secret detentions of individuals. As noted in the report, forcible removals, extraditions, or deportations circumvent the extradition process required by the rule of law. We therefore strongly urge states to adhere to their obligations under international law, including international human rights law.

We welcome your report's focus on the contribution of the Méndez Principles. These Principles provide useful guidance to ensure effective questioning which respect the rights of individuals. We underline the importance of presumption of innocence, improving effective criminal investigations and prosecutions, to ensure avoiding arbitrary detention.

How does the Working Group envisage incorporating the Méndez Principles into their work?

Thank you.