



Statement of Ireland

53rd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls

21 June 2023

Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Working Group for their report.

Ireland is particularly concerned by the report's findings that poverty and socioeconomic inequality are the results of systemic failures that violate multiple human rights of women and girls, leading to a vicious cycle in which women and girls are disproportionately represented amongst the world's poor.

Ireland is committed to addressing such inequalities, through our focus on reaching the furthest behind first and mainstreaming a gender-transformative approach in our development cooperation programmes. Structural and institutional barriers must be tackled if we are to achieve gender equality in its fullest sense, as called for in the Sustainable Development Goals.

We welcome the Working Group's call to ground all laws and policies in human rights principles and meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity. Ireland is working to do so, including by funding feminist and women's rights organisations and continuing to champion civil society space globally. We recently held a Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality, and are examining and responding to recommendations from this democratic process.

Members of the working group,

Ireland is deeply concerned by the backlash against gender equality, as recognised in the Working Group's report. How can the international community ensure progress towards gender equality, particularly for those in marginalised situations?