



**Statement of Ireland**

**76<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Third Committee**

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**Interactive Dialogue with the Chair of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises**

**14 October 2021**

Mr Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and Ireland thanks Professor Deva for his report.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the UN Working Group for its ongoing work to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and to wish the Chair and his colleagues well with preparations for the forthcoming annual Forum.

This report provides another valuable contribution to the evolving policy landscape in the area of Business and Human Rights. It comes at an important time. As the Report references, far reaching legislative proposals on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence are being developed by the European Commission, among a wide range of other related initiatives. And, while the Working Group continues to encourage and assist states in all regions to develop National Action Plans, those States that were part of the first wave are, in several cases, moving onto the second iteration of their Plans.

Ireland is in the process of finalising a review of the implementation of its inaugural National Action Plan. We acknowledge the reference made to the Plan in the Chair's Report. The report itself will form a useful tool as we consider the next phase of policy development on Business and Human Rights in Ireland.

Mr Chair, a number of the report's recommendations are directed towards investors; is there an appetite for engagement on these important issues among the investor community? How best can such engagement be promoted and achieved?

Thank you.

[253 words]

