

Human Rights Council – 29th session (15 June – 3 July 2015)

Panel discussion on the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment by all persons of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Statement by Ireland

30 June 2015

Mr. President,

I would like to add some remarks to those made on our behalf in the statement of the European Union.

Ireland unreservedly condemns terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations. We extend our sympathy to all victims of terrorist acts and members of their families, including the horrific attacks during the past week in France, Kuwait, Tunisia and, most recently, Egypt – one of which took the lives of three Irish citizens.

Developments over the years in transport, communications, weapons and other technologies have allowed terrorism to take new and dangerous forms. What remains constant is that while States are entitled, and indeed are obliged, to take action to protect their populations against acts of terrorism, they must, when doing so, comply strictly with their human rights obligations. The strong international consensus on this point has been reaffirmed by States on many occasions here in the Human Rights Council and elsewhere. In a similar vein, Ireland would urge caution on the important legal distinction between State and non-State actors.

Ireland takes a comprehensive and human rights-compliant approach to counter-terrorism. We believe that an effective approach requires action on multiple fronts, including tackling root causes, preventing violent extremism, promoting a counter narrative, while at the same time strengthening legal and security measures.

We would be interested to hear the views of the panelists on ways in which the compatibility of counter-terrorism measures taken by States with their international human rights obligations may be improved and strengthened.