

71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

Interactive Dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Statement by Ireland

19 October 2016

Thank you Mr. Chair.

High Commissioner, Ireland welcomes the opportunity to interact with you here in New York and values this opportunity to share updates and reaffirm our support for the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide.

We refer to the update provided at the September session of the Human Rights Council and echo the concern voiced by the High Commissioner at a growing trend towards non-cooperation with his Office, in particular the refusal of Member States to grant access to the OHCHR and other human rights mechanisms. We commend the Office for its efforts to monitor States where access is denied and recall the responsibility of Member States to deliver on our commitment to collective action.

High Commissioner, you noted at the Human Rights Council that, “this organisation to which we belong was created out of necessity”. This necessity persists today and demands of us a renewed effort to address the multiple and complex challenges to human rights.

We support the continued efforts of the OHCHR to facilitate interaction between the special procedures and other international human rights mechanisms, regional human rights systems, the wider United Nations system, Member States and civil society.

- *High Commissioner, could you elaborate further on ways in which these interactions may be enabled, and at what levels, particularly with regard to civil society?*
- *We note your comments in relation to the chronic and emerging challenges in the human rights sphere today, and the increasing demands this places on the Office in terms of resources. Could you elaborate on the organizational changes envisaged to allow better support to rights-holders in this context?*

Thank you.