Ireland welcomes the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Mr Anand Grover. We thank him for his Report on unhealthy foods, non-communicable diseases and the right to health.

One of the three goals of Ireland’s policy for international development entitled ‘One World, One Future’ is ‘Reduced hunger’ and ‘stronger resilience’. In a global context where almost one billion people are hungry, it is difficult to overstate the importance of the right to food and of combating malnutrition. It is particularly in this light that we acknowledge the contribution made by the Special Rapporteur’s work in this area.

We welcome the focus of the Report on children as one of the vulnerable groups with respect to non-communicable diseases. This has clear significance to the ongoing work of the Office of the High Commissioner which, in conjunction with the WHO and other stakeholders, is now working to finalise technical guidance on the practical application of a human rights based approach to under five mortality and morbidity, for presentation to the Council’s 27th session in September 2014.

In the Report, emphasis is placed on the role of the food industry and transnational corporations in the rise in non-communicable diseases. In this context, we would be interested to hear the views of the Special Rapporteur on whether he sees a role for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the fight against non-communicable diseases.

I now turn to the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. In the three
short years since its establishment, the Working Group has achieved a
great deal in its efforts to disseminate and promote implementation of the

Ireland is strongly committed to the Guiding Principles. While cognisant
of the scale of its task, we are also supportive of the Working Group’s
multidimensional work and hope to see its mandate renewed by
consensus later this month.

Ireland published its National Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility for
2014-2016, entitled ‘Good for Business, Good for the Community’ in
April of this year. Among other elements, it acknowledges the
importance of aligning the National Plan with relevant international
frameworks, including the Guiding Principles.

In addition, Ireland is developing its approach on how best to formulate a
National Plan to implement the Guiding Principles. We look forward to
reading the Working Group’s Report to the 69th session of the General
Assembly and to constructive engagement with the Working Group on
this issue in the future as we continue our important work, individually
and collectively, to implement the Guiding Principles.

We note that the topic of remedies will be a focus of the Annual Forum
on Business and Human Rights in December 2014. We would welcome
any further information as to how the Working Group sees this focus
manifesting itself in the proceedings of the Annual Forum.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson