

Human Rights Council 39th Session (10 – 28 September 2018)

Item 3 – Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparation & Guarantees of Non-Recurrence and the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

Statement of Ireland

14 September 2018

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union:

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland extends a warm welcome to the new Special Rapporteur and to the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General.

We thank you for your reports and presentations.

Both of you raise issues of great concern and importance.

For the Special Adviser, we note the appropriateness of doing so, against the backdrop of the 70th Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention of Genocide.

In Special Rapporteur Salvioli's case we are particularly pleased to welcome your first Interactive Dialogue with the Human Rights Council.

Since its inception, Ireland has been a strong supporter of your mandate.

As you know, our country's direct experience of transitional justice and reconciliation comes through the Northern Ireland Peace Process founded on the Good Friday Agreement, which was signed 20 years ago in 1998. Our experience confirms that for victims the real work only begins with the signing of a political settlement.

In your report, we welcome the focus on gender and the vital linkages to the 2030 Agenda.

We commend your report for highlighting the pivotal role which civil society has to play in these sensitive processes.

We would welcome any further thoughts that you might have on how we, as States, might more effectively support civil society engagement with your mandate.

Finally, let me re-iterate Ireland's unwavering support for the mandates of the Special Rapporteur and the Special Adviser.

We wish you both continued success in discharging the challenging functions associated with your roles.

Thank you.