



**Statement of Ireland**  
**41st session of the Human Rights Council**

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General Debate on Item 5: Human rights bodies and mechanisms

**3 July 2019**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and adds the following.

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland reiterates its longstanding commitment to the UN human rights mechanisms, including the UN Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies.

Their work is a central component of the UN's human rights system and as such is integral to the promotion and protection of human rights internationally.

As States, we must ensure that these mechanisms are adequately supported and resourced by us, to allow them fulfil the mandates that we have assigned to them.

Ireland also recognises the vital role played by civil society and human rights defenders in the protection and promotion of human rights. For our system to function effectively, it is quite simply essential that the voices of civil society are heard.

We continue to be deeply concerned therefore by ongoing reports of acts of intimidation and reprisal against civil society and human rights defenders seeking to engage with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms.

We also remain deeply concerned by reports of attacks against mandate holders themselves.

We call on all States to protect the integrity of our system by doing their utmost to prevent such attacks, and to ensure that all individuals seeking to engage with the UN human rights system can do so without fear of any act of intimidation or reprisal.

Thank you.