



Statement of Ireland
41st session of the Human Rights Council

Panel discussion on women's rights and climate change: climate action, good practices and lessons learned

28 June 2019

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland warmly welcomes the distinguished panellists, and thanks them for their presentations.

Today's panel is a welcome opportunity to discuss transformative and innovative approaches to the promotion and protection of women's rights in the context of climate change.

Ireland recently launched a new policy for international development, 'A Better World', in which gender equality and climate action are two key priorities. As reflected in the discussions today, women are vital agents of change. Women are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. However, they also possess unique knowledge, skillsets and perspectives borne out of how they interact with food systems, technology and institutions which can improve the effectiveness of climate action.

This unique position is recognised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 13 address issues of gender equality and climate action respectively, the achievement of the other 15 Goals is directly dependent on the extent to which gender and climate issues, and the interaction between them, is considered.

We must recognise the specific risks to women's rights in adverse climate conditions and ensure that their voices are heard, and heeded, at all levels of climate policy making and practice, especially in international fora. Engagement with, and strengthening of, grassroots civil society organisations who work towards the involvement and empowerment of women in the response to climate disasters is an important element in facilitating these voices.

Mr President, what are the views of the panel on how states can do more to encourage and support women's grassroots organisations in the area of climate action?

Thank you.