



Statement of Ireland

47th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's report on State response to pandemics

21 June 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the High Commissioner for her update today.

Madame High Commissioner,

Ireland continues to be concerned over the use of emergency measures as a pretext to violate human rights and fundamental freedoms. Ireland calls on all states to take concrete steps to protect civic space throughout their responses to the pandemic.

For its part, Ireland has sought to ensure that all measures taken in response to the multiple challenges of Covid-19 are fully in line with our international human rights obligations.

We share the High Commissioner's belief that all recovery plans should take an inclusive and human rights-based approach. States need to ensure that pre-existing inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic are not entrenched in recovery measures. Inclusive consultation must be carried out with all stakeholders, including women, older persons, migrants and persons with disabilities. Civil society participation is essential.

Madame High Commissioner, looking ahead, how can states effectively provide protection to human rights defenders, journalists and media workers? And what recommendations would you provide to States in tackling disinformation in the context of the pandemic?

Thank you.