



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

15 March 2022

Mr Vice President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Representative for her report today.

Ireland wishes to commend the Special Representative for the high level of activity undertaken during the reporting period, in particular her engagement with a number of the world's most challenging conflict zones.

The report paints a disturbing picture of the plight of children in conflict situations around the world. It is deeply concerning that the first nine months of 2021 were marked by a sustained high number of grave human rights violations against children, many of whom had already been rendered particularly vulnerable by the Covid-19 pandemic. The killing and maiming of children; the recruitment and use of children; and the denial of humanitarian access, which prevents the humanitarian community from delivering vital assistance to children in need, are appalling violations and have no place in our society.

Madame Special Representative,

In your report, you note that one of the most pervasive violations against children is the denial of humanitarian access. Could you elaborate further on the steps states can take to ensure greater humanitarian access and to allow for the greater protection of children in conflict situations?

Thank you.

[195 words]