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Statement of Ireland
52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

14 March 2023

Thank you Mr. Vice-President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her insightful report.

The prevention and eradication of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have been cornerstones of Ireland's approach to human rights for decades, and we strongly believe that the absolute prohibition of torture is a key pillar of the international human rights framework.

We remind all States that no exceptional circumstances can justify torture or any other form of ill-treatment. We call upon all States to combat and prevent the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment at all levels.

We acknowledge the importance of prompt, impartial and effective investigations as outlined in your report. In this regard Ireland is currently drafting new legislation that will enable the establishment of a multiple institution National Preventative Mechanism model.

The coordinating body for the National Preventative Mechanisms will be Ireland's National Human Rights Institution, an independent public body accountable to our Parliament. Further, once enacted, this legislation will enable Ireland to ratify OPCAT.

Ireland is proud to be a donor to the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and we encourage all States to consider making a voluntary contribution.

Special Rapporteur, how can States best empower and equip national investigation bodies to take action against torture?

Thank you.