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Statement of Ireland

54th Session of the Human Rights Council

Panel Discussion on Youth and Human Rights: Young people's engagement with climate change and global environmental decision-making processes

26 September 2023

Thank you Mr President, distinguished Panelists,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the panelists for their interventions. It is clear that climate change and environmental degradation is one of the most consequential challenges that we face.

A fundamental element of Ireland's Climate Action Plan is the engagement and empowerment of everyone in society to be part of creating solutions for their future.

Through our annual National Youth Assembly on Climate, young people in all their diversity can present their views on any climate issue of concern. This includes their visions for Ireland in 2050, and also how the SDGs can be better incorporated into youth participation structures. The Youth Assembly's recommendations are now being considered for inclusion in the 2024 update to the national Climate Action Plan.

Ireland's Climate Youth Delegate Programme also promotes the active participation of young people in international climate policy. This includes collating inputs from diverse youth groups across Ireland to inform our position ahead of international meetings. Young people are also represented in Ireland's official delegation to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Ireland is committed to ensuring that the views of children and young people are listened to and given due weight in policy-making. While climate change is an issue for everyone, we must remain conscious that young people will bear a disproportionate burden in managing its consequences.

Panelists, how can we ensure that the views of young people are centered in our discussions on climate change?

Thank you.