

## **Human Rights Council 31st Session (29 February-24 March 2016)**

### **Item 2 ID with High Commissioner**

#### **Statement by Ireland**

**10 March 2016**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and adds the following.

Mr President

High Commissioner

Ireland warmly welcomes you to the Human Rights Council and thanks you for your report and presentation today.

We welcome the adjustment of timing for this dialogue this session, to avoid a clash with the High Level Segment, thus allowing greater focus for the important exchanges involved in both. The work of the Human Rights Council places enormous demands on all delegations and we welcome all practical, constructive approaches such as this to assist us in our work.

For the opportunity for a two-way dialogue is a precious one, allowing the possibility for us all to benefit and move closer towards our shared goal of all human rights for all.

As we have remarked in the past, for us it is clear that your voice, and that of your Office, should be regarded as that of a friend and trusted adviser – whether supporting and guiding us through technical assistance, or indeed criticising and challenging us to do better. That dual role is a vital and legitimate part of the mandate of the Office and we urge all States to remain open and responsive to it.

We hope that a similar constructive approach be brought to bear in other areas of our work too. We note, for example, that the host State and States representing all previous HRC Presidencies are proposing a draft decision this session, which would allow for a roundtable at HRC32 in June, to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of this Council, with the participation of all previous Presidencies. To us, this is a valuable and good faith initiative and we sincerely hope that it can meet with general support.

High Commissioner

In light of time restrictions, we will not comment here on the various reports before the Council this session and will instead do so under other agenda items. We would be interested, however, in your views on a general issue relating to reports to the HRC.

We make many and increasing requests for reports to OHCHR through our work here in the Council. Responding to this always-growing list of requests is no doubt a challenge. It is a credit to the expertise and dedication of your Office and all its staff that the reports produced and submitted to us are of such consistently good quality. These reports deserve proper study, review and discussion, not only in this Council but throughout our systems more generally.

Yet the often-late production of these reports significantly reduces the ability of delegations to the HRC and official systems more generally in absorbing and responding to these reports. Do you have any suggestions on how the situation might be improved; or what supports might be required to allow your Office to produce reports more speedily?

Thank you