

**Human Rights Council – 30th session
(14 September – 2 October 2015)**

**Clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth,
justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the Working Group on
Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**

16 September 2015

Statement by Ireland

Mr. President,

Ireland welcomes the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and thanks them for their presentations. Our remarks will focus on the issue of enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Ireland shares the concern of the Working Group in relation to the underreporting of cases of enforced disappearances. In particular, we recognise the essential role played by family members of disappeared persons and civil society in ensuring the continued reporting of cases to the Working Group, particularly where States are not willing to cooperate with it. We call on States to create and maintain, in law and practice, a safe and enabling environment in which civil society can operate effectively in reporting cases of enforced disappearances and to take specific measures to assist family members in also reporting cases to the Working Group.

The increase in threats, intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders working on cases of enforced disappearances is of great concern. Human rights defenders play an essential role in investigating enforced disappearances, through the identification of the perpetrators and providing information to the families about the fate or whereabouts of disappeared persons. We recall Human Rights Council resolution 21/4, which urges all states to take specific measures to provide adequate protection to, inter alia, human rights defenders working on this issue against any threats, intimidation, persecution, reprisals or ill-treatment.

Mr. President,

Bearing in mind the annual report's highlighting of underreporting of enforced disappearances given a range of restrictions placed on civil society working on enforced disappearances issues, we would like to ask if the Working Group could elaborate on measures which States could take to specifically assist civil society in ensuring the reporting of enforced disappearances.