

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on older persons and the  
Working Group on use of mercenaries**

**Wednesday, 17 September 2015, Geneva**

**Statement by Ireland**

Ireland would like to welcome the Special Rapporteur on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and the Special Rapporteur on the use of Mercenaries and to thank them both for their presentations today.

Ireland's comments and question today are directed to the Special Rapporteur on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

Special Rapporteur

Ireland shares your concern regarding the autonomy and care of older persons and considers your report on these issues timely. These issues are particularly and increasingly important, given the current population trends whereby the UN Population Division estimates that 1 in 5 people worldwide will be over the age of 60 by 2050.

We note your comments regarding the importance of supporting the individual's capacity as an aspect of autonomy. Ireland is in the process of making adjustments to our domestic law on this particular point. The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Bill 2013 will establish a system whereby persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, including age-related, may avail of a range of support options in order to maximise their decision-making capability.

We also acknowledge the Special Rapporteur's recommendations regarding care of older persons in light of the increasing prevalence of chronic and degenerative diseases in older age. In particular, Ireland notes the report's recommendation that "older persons should be included in the design, planning and implementation and evaluation of care, be these social or health-related services and facilities".

Special Rapporteur

- *We would be grateful if you could elaborate further on these points, by outlining examples of best practices on empowering older persons in this regard*

- *We would also welcome examples of means of empowering older persons to fully participate in and contribute to the advancement of the rights of older persons.*