

**Human Rights Council – 27<sup>th</sup> session**  
**(8<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014)**  
**General Debate Items 2/3**  
**12 September 2014**  
**Ireland Statement**

Thank you Mr. President.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

Ireland expresses its warm appreciation to the High Commissioner and his Office as well as to the Secretary General for the thematic reports under items 2 and 3. In this regard, we also acknowledge the immense contribution of the former High Commissioner, Navi Pillay.

Ireland welcomes in particular the Office of the High Commissioner's summary report on the panel discussion on the importance of the promotion and protection of civil society space. As outlined in the report, many of the participants emphasised the crucial role civil society space plays in the realisation of human rights on the ground. However, serious concerns were also expressed about the shrinking space in which civil society organisations are operating around the globe. We, along with Chile, Japan, Sierra Leone and Tunisia, will table a second resolution on civil society space at this session which will respond to the issues raised in this panel discussion.

We warmly thank the High Commissioner for the technical guidance on a practical application of a human rights-based approach to preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5. Every year, 6.6 million children die before their fifth birthday, largely from preventable or treatable causes. We believe this technical guidance will assist States and non-state actors to improve realisation of the rights of the child, by providing assistance on addressing child mortality in accordance with human rights standards and principles. The technical guidance benefited from the input of States and has been advanced through close cooperation between OHCHR and WHO, supported by an external advisory group of human rights and child health experts. Ireland, along with Austria, Botswana, Mongolia and Uruguay, will introduce a draft resolution on this topic at the current session which will respond to the technical guidance.

Ireland also welcomes with appreciation the Office of the High Commissioner's report on how the technical guidance on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity has been applied by states. We are very encouraged that both governmental and civil society organisations are utilising this guidance to ensure that states are complying with their international human rights obligations. We also take note of the challenges involved in implementing the technical guidance and look forward to future discussions on how rights-based approaches can be better supported and applied in practice.

Ireland also thanks the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention for both of its' reports to this session. Ireland rejects all forms of arbitrary detention and affirms that no person should be deprived of their liberty except in accordance with procedures established by law. We note that the Working Group's annual report documents a wide range of activities undertaken during 2013, including a number of country missions. Ireland also notes the opinions delivered in individual cases by the Working Group and calls on all States to act on the basis of these recommendations.

Thank you Mr. President.