

Human Rights Council 38th Session

Item 3 General Debate

25th June 2018

National Statement of Ireland

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner and his Office for the range and quality of the reports presented under this agenda item.

Ireland warmly welcomes the report on procedures and practices in respect of civil society engagement with international and regional organizations (A/HRC/38/18), mandated by the last resolution on civil society space, where Ireland worked in a core group with Chile, Japan, Sierra Leone and Tunisia.

Ireland remains concerned about the challenges to civil society engagement identified in the report, including reprisals, and accreditation processes.

We particularly appreciate the report's recommendation that States and organizations should reach out proactively to underrepresented parts of civil society with a view to ensuring the diversity of civil society participation.

The report identifies various good practices to promote civil society engagement with regional and international organizations. Ireland looks forward to continuing work this Session with our core group partners on a resolution seeking to bring forward many of the recommendations in the OHCHR report.

At the national level, Ireland seeks to promote civil society participation in a variety of ways: examples include consultations with civil society actors in advance of Ireland's UPR reviews, broad stakeholder engagement on poverty and social exclusion, and the National Economic and Social Council.

Ireland also welcomes the summary of the high-level panel discussion dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the UDHR and the 25th anniversary of the VDPA (A/HRC/38/19). We echo the High Commissioner's remark that these anniversaries should remind us all of the potentially catastrophic consequences of undermining and violating the commitments made 70 and 25 years ago respectively.

Ireland strongly supports all UN efforts to highlight the continuing importance of both the UDHR and the VDPA in today's world.

Thank you.