

Human Rights Council 38th session

Item 8 - Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

2nd July 2018

National Statement of Ireland

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

Mr President,

This year we mark both the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, the commitments, obligations and undertakings contained in these instruments matter more than ever. The fundamental values that underpinned the UDHR are being challenged and undermined. Ireland strongly believes that a commitment to multilateralism and cooperation in the promotion and protection of these fundamental freedoms is critical and, in this regard, we recall Part I Article 1 of the Vienna Declaration which states that “enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations.”

Ireland remains committed to recognising and facilitating the critical role played by a strong and unhindered civil society in the full realisation by all of their human rights. We are deeply concerned about the increasing reports of discrimination, violence, reprisals and death experienced by civil society actors, including human rights defenders, across the world. We call for a collective and collaborative approach to be undertaken to ensure that such instances are never tolerated or become an accepted norm and that the voice of civil society remains strong. Ireland, along with our core group members, has presented a resolution on civil society space to this Session and we encourage all states to support this resolution through co-sponsorship.

Ireland is troubled by threats to the universal values which are the bedrock of multilateralism, and believe that this rules-based system must be protected. We support the Human Rights Council as the primary platform for addressing human rights violations, and we urge all states

to continue their efforts to uphold the virtues of multilateralism and to defend the universality of human rights, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration.

Thank you.