



**Statement of Ireland**  
**42nd session of the Human Rights Council**

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Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of  
the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms

**23 September 2019**

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

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland would like to thank the members of the panel for their remarks today and commend them all for their efforts.

When gender parity was last discussed by the Human Rights Council in 2015, it was acknowledged that notable efforts had been made to improve gender integration in its working methods. However, with the exception of mandates and procedures focussed on children's and women's, women continued to be underrepresented in human rights mechanisms. It is clear therefore that challenges to gender parity remain, despite significant efforts made to address this issue.

Gender parity is a critical policy priority for Ireland and our National Strategy on Women and Girls 2017 to 2020 has as its vision an Ireland where all women enjoy equality with men and can achieve their full potential, while enjoying a safe and fulfilling life. One concrete action we have taken is to set a 40% target for representation of women and men on the boards of state bodies and agencies. Where the 40% target has been reached, Ministers and nominating bodies will be encouraged to move to a 45% target aimed at achieving gender parity.

*In the context of accelerating gender equality throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms, Ireland would like to ask the panel their views on the relative merits, and effectiveness, of quotas and targets?*