



**Statement of Ireland**  
**43rd session of the Human Rights Council**

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Item 2: General debate on the High Commissioner's oral update

**27 February 2020**

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and we congratulate the High Commissioner for her strong and comprehensive statement earlier today.

Ireland attaches great importance to the issues raised both in that address, and in the wide-range of reports presented to the Human Rights Council this Session. We will return to many of these issues during the various Interactive Dialogues scheduled.

Once again, we are struck by the deeply troubling fact that the most basic of individual freedoms are under attack, in every geographic region. In particular, we are greatly concerned by ever-growing pressures on civil society space and human rights defenders, a priority issue for Ireland.

As a global community quite simply, we need to do better, in words and through action, to protect and promote human rights for all.

Agenda 2030 provides us with the framework to pursue positive solutions – as you highlighted High Commissioner – to the challenges, both old and new, that we are facing. It is a comprehensive, integrated Agenda. It is people-centred and predicated on the promotion and protection of human rights without discrimination. One of its defining features is the clear interlinkage between development, peace and security. Ireland firmly shares the view, that the Agenda and its Goals will not be achieved unless underpinned at each and every step by a clear human rights approach and a commitment to gender equality.

In this context, we welcome that the UN Secretary General recognised this intrinsic link in his Call to Action, delivered earlier this week.

Finally, Ireland would like to emphasise once again and in the clearest possible terms, our unwavering support for the work of the High Commissioner, for the Office that she leads and for the independence of its activities.

Thank you