



Statement of Ireland

47th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

1 July 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report, and for its focus on the critical importance of access to justice in the protection of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

This report rightly and necessarily notes that “legitimate grounds for restrictions exist” while emphasising that restrictions provided for by law must be “necessary and proportionate.”

Ireland shares the Special Rapporteur’s concern that counter-terrorism legislation can often be too broad and vague in its definitions, therefore enabling human rights violations and abuses. We call on states to ensure that all counter-terrorism legislation and policies fully comply with international law.

Ireland shares the view expressed in the report that legal assistance, advice and representation are essential components of a fair and efficient justice system that is based on the rule of law. Efforts to protect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association should be supported and not disrupted by States.

Special Rapporteur, you highlight the need for the use of digital surveillance technologies to comply with the principles of legality, necessity and legitimacy of objective during peaceful assemblies. What steps can the international community take to ensure that this is the case?

Thank you.