



Statement of Ireland

47th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Transnational Corporations

21 June 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Working Group for this report.

We commend the Working Group for hosting such a well-attended Forum in November last year, with over 4,000 participants registered - a remarkable feat at a time of Covid, and a testament to the immense value of the Forum to all stakeholders.

As ever, the Forum explored urgent challenges and it was particularly useful to examine the impact of the pandemic on the Business and Human Rights agenda, and to identify ways to build back better. The UN Guiding Principles are essential to that task.

Chair, Ireland would like to focus on the situation of Human Rights Defenders. During the Forum, we heard from many human rights defenders about the intimidation, threats and violence they face. We heard from the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, who has repeatedly made the case, that many of the attacks and killings of human rights defenders are linked to business activities. It is clear that many states and many business enterprises need to do more to meet the requirements of the UNGPs.

Chair, what is the most urgent change now required to protect the lives of human rights defenders in these vulnerable situations?

Thank you