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Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders

16 March 2023

President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report.

The 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders presents a timely opportunity to mark the achievements of Human Rights Defenders and to highlight our appreciation for their work.

That work is vital to the protection and promotion of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. Through their perseverance and solidarity, they are dedicating themselves to the fight for the respect of our human rights. They are deserving of our support.

Ireland is committed to ensuring a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and it condemns all acts of intimidation, violence or reprisal against them. .

Special Rapporteur, your report shines a light on some of the crucial successes that have been achieved. We take encouragement from this and hope too that it can inspire others to persevere in their work support of respect for human rights.

Special Rapporteur, in your report you note that the achievements of human rights defenders are the result ultimately of collective effort. Against that background, what are the particular areas for priority action by states to contribute to that collective effort that you would wish to see?