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Statement of Ireland
52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

14 March 2023

Mr President,

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

While recognising the role that new technologies can play in countering terrorism, we are concerned by the the Special Rapporteur's central finding that these same technologies are being used to crack down on legitimate dissent and human rights advocacy, and as such have the potential to undermine the promotion and protection of human rights.

We share the Special Rapporteur's view that robust oversight and control systems are needed to prevent abuse of such technologies. In addition, dialogue between private sector, relevant UN agencies and fora, human rights experts and civil society is critical to ensure a consistent human rights based approach and practice in the design, development, use and transfer of new technologies.

Ireland welcomes the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that business enterprises in the area of new technology must conduct comprehensive human rights due diligence, including risk assessments of actual and potential human rights impacts of these technologies, during their business operations.

Special Rapporteur, how can States work with businesses enterprises to deliver robust oversight of new technologies in the counter terrorism sphere?

Thank you.