



Statement of Ireland

53rd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Theme: Building capacity for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

27 June 2023

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

Ireland is committed to supporting the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and recognises the importance of addressing outstanding knowledge and capacity gaps among stakeholders.

We echo your encouragement to States to develop National Action Plans as a tangible commitment to implementing the UNGPs. Ireland has finalised the review of the implementation of its inaugural National Plan on Business and Human Rights and we are actively working towards a second national plan.

Ireland also acknowledges the importance of building the capacity of businesses to implement the UNGPs. In this regard, under the previous National Plan on Business and Human Rights, Ireland published human rights guidance for businesses and promoted this through webinars in collaboration with academia and businesses.

We welcome the report's focus on inclusion and support for civil society and rights holders. Ireland strongly supports international efforts to strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders to engage with the Guiding Principles, especially civil society actors, human rights defenders and persons in marginalised and vulnerable situations. Improving access to resources and supporting local ownership are central to ensuring effective, inclusive and accountable implementation of the UNGPs.

As Ireland is working towards our second National Plan, how can we best ensure effective capacity building, including for businesses and civil society?