



## Statement of Ireland

### 40th session of the Human Rights Council

*Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child: Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education*

**4 March 2019**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the EU and wishes to add the following.

Mr President,

We welcome the distinguished panellists and wish to thank the High Commissioner for her report “*Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education.*”

Ireland shares the concern of many that while children with disabilities hold the same rights as all children, their enjoyment of these rights may sometimes be hampered by barriers to accessing services. The High Commissioner’s report is a timely reminder that children with disabilities may encounter a combination of social, cultural, attitudinal and physical obstacles in their daily lives.

Ireland firmly agrees with the High Commissioner that meaningful participation of children with disabilities in all decisions affecting them is key to ensuring that their rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. They have the right to have their views heard and taken into consideration on an equal basis with other children. In this regard, Ireland recognises that inclusive education for children with disabilities can equip them with the self-confidence, knowledge and skills that they will need to claim and fully enjoy their rights.

Mr President,

*In recognising that inclusive education is in the best interest of children with disabilities, we would like to ask the panel how countries can be encouraged to move towards an empowering fully inclusive education model.*

Thank you.