

Human Rights Council – 30th Session (14th September – 2nd October 2015)

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on arbitrary detention and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery

Statement by Ireland

14 September 2015

Mr. President,

Ireland thanks both the Chairperson of the Working Group on arbitrary detention and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery for their reports and presentations today.

Ireland welcomes the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group on arbitrary detention which ensures that the Group can continue to play an important role in working with States to remedy the situation of detainees.

The right of anyone who is deprived of his or her liberty by arrest or detention to take proceedings before a court in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of the detention, and to be released where it is found unlawful is a fundamental one; and a requirement with which Ireland fully complies.

Ireland in principle supports the draft Principles and Guidelines produced by the Working Group, but is concerned that they are overly detailed in places and seek to comment on substantive law. This may have consequences for the clarity and overall effectiveness of the draft. It may also assist for clarity if the introduction to the Principles and Guidelines more clearly indicates that States are free to choose the manner in which they discharge the obligation in question.

Mr. President,

Turning now to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery:

Ireland commends Ms. Bhoola for her report. We consider that the report provides a very valuable analysis of the responsibilities of both States and business in the elimination of contemporary forms of slavery in global supply chains; as well as the complex challenges relating to accountability and obligations.

Ireland believes that the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provide a good framework for strengthening responses to the issue of slavery in global supply chains through the development of National Action Plans.

We support the development of National Action Plans in an open and inclusive manner, through consultation with all stakeholders including civil society.

Your report refers to examples of good practices by States and businesses. We are interested in hearing more about these and would be grateful if you could you elaborate on these and initiatives that have been successful in enhancing dialogue with civil society?

Thank you