

Human Rights Council 38th Session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus

25th June 2018

National Statement of Ireland

Ireland aligns with the Statement of the EU and adds the following:

Mr President

Ireland welcomes the Special Rapporteur and thanks him for his comprehensive report. Ireland is very concerned at the prevailing repressive human rights environment in Belarus which is detailed in the report.

In particular, the continued application of the death penalty remains of grave concern. Ireland urges Belarus to no longer ignore the Special Rapporteur's call for the introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty.

Ireland further notes the sustained oppressive approach taken by Belarus in relation to freedoms of assembly, association, opinion and expression, and of the media particularly online media where there is a real threat of further restrictions if amendments to media law are made as outlined in the report.

Given these concerns, we believe it is necessary for the Human Rights Council to maintain its scrutiny of the situation of human rights in Belarus and call on all states to support the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

Finally, Ireland calls on Belarus to cooperate fully and engage with the Special Rapporteur and his mandate on the situation regarding human rights in Belarus.

Special Rapporteur,

We would be interested to hear your views on how Belarus might be encouraged to improve compliance with its international human rights obligations particularly with regard to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Thank you.