



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **40th session of the Human Rights Council**

*General Debate on Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development*

**7 March 2019**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr President,

Ireland thanks the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and her Office for the range and quality of the reports presented under this item.

We commend the High Commissioner for her report on the empowerment of children with disabilities, and for her report on the worrying impacts of terrorism and counter-terrorism on children. As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, they serve as a timely reminder of States' obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all children, regardless of circumstance, and further demonstrate that the commitment to "leave no one behind" must entail reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised children first.

We thank the Office of the High Commissioner for the summary report on the full-day discussion on the human rights of women, held in June 2018. The upcoming anniversaries of CEDAW and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women are significant milestones in the advancement of women's rights worldwide, and this report offers a valuable opportunity for States to reflect on the work that remains to be done. Ireland is firmly committed to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls and we will continue to work toward the full realisation of their rights globally.

Finally, we thank the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. As a regular supporter of the Fund, we are concerned by the persistent funding shortfall and encourage other States to consider making a voluntary contribution.

Thank you.