



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on human rights and the environment

2 March 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We wish to thank the Special Rapporteur for his valuable report on good practices in the implementation of a right to a healthy environment. Ireland intends to draw inspiration from many of these practices as we seek to address the climate and biodiversity emergency declared by our parliament last year.

Ireland is making great strides in providing a healthy and safety environment. Last year, we published our Climate Action Plan containing nearly 200 actions to reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. We are currently preparing a Climate Action Bill which will provide for the inclusion of the 2050 zero emissions target in Irish law. Our Climate and Environment Minister committed to “embed this goal in every element of policy, to mobilise citizens and enterprise and to work with other countries for concerted effort”.

Ireland is strongly committed, in both domestic and international arenas, to ensuring that our climate action is responsive to the circumstances and contributions of men and women equally.

Youth voices have been the catalyst for the international community to sit up and take notice and therefore youth participation is essential to secure the future of generations. This is why Ireland, together with the Marshall Islands led a UN Youth Forum on Climate at the UN in New York last September. 140 states and over 1,000 young people participated with the collective message - take action now.

Special Rapporteur, in this unprecedented global environmental crisis, which best practices do you see as being the most effective to protect human rights, particularly those of the most vulnerable?

Thank you.