



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education*

**27 June 2023**

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report, a timely reflection on the right to education as we mark 25 years of the mandate.

Education is a cornerstone of society and a driver of social equality. The Irish Government is committed to ensuring an education system that fosters a love of lifelong learning, enables stronger communities, contributes to the economy, and adds to the health and wellbeing of all learners and wider society.

We note your report's findings that to continue to realise the right to equitable and inclusive education, we should address longstanding challenges such as the continued exclusion of many from education, as well as new and emerging challenges such as the digital revolution.

A primary goal of Ireland's Education Strategy is to ensure equity of opportunity in education. This includes actions to help students at risk of educational disadvantage and students at risk of disengaging from school. In addition, our Digital Education Strategy recognises the potential of digital technologies as a key enabler to facilitate equity of opportunity in education, if the digital divide is addressed, while also recognising the importance of supporting students to develop the skills and understanding necessary to navigate safely and productively in a digital world.

*Special Rapporteur, how can digital technologies be harnessed to implement the 4As framework?*

Thank you.