

Interactive Dialogue Item 5: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on Reprisals

Joint statement on Reprisals

Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Reprisals core group members, Fiji, Ghana, Hungary, Uruguay, and my own country, Ireland.

We welcome the Secretary General's report, and the Assistant Secretary-General's work on addressing acts of intimidation or reprisal across the UN system.

We note with deep concern the finding that reporting on intimidation or reprisals, as well as responding to such allegations, has become more challenging. We are also concerned about negative trends of increasing self-censorship, online and offline surveillance and the misuse of counter-terrorism and national security laws.

Everyone, including civil society actors and human rights defenders, has the right to access and cooperate with international bodies, including the United Nations and its mechanisms.

And we condemn in the strongest terms all acts of intimidation or reprisal, both online and offline, by State and non-State actors, against those who seek to engage with the United Nations.

The UN has a collective responsibility to address the issue of reprisals. We will present a resolution on this issue this session and welcome the presentation of the SG's report also in New York next month.

Assistant Secretary-General, how can dedicated focal points in UN entities contribute to addressing the issue of reprisals?

Thank you.