

28th session of the Human Rights Council (2-27 March 2015)

Full Day Discussion

Human Rights and Climate Change

6 March 2015

Statement by Ireland

Panel 2

Mr President,

Ireland sincerely thanks the panellists for sharing their experience and expertise. The right to food is perhaps one of the first and most visible rights which are adversely affected by climate change. Agricultural production, including access to food, is at risk in many countries as a result of climate change. This has a multiplier effect, resulting in the violations of other human rights. For example, climate change can cause women to work harder to secure food, water, and energy for cooking and heating. Due to this burden of responsibility, women have less time to earn income, get an education, or provide care to families. Girls regularly are forced to drop out of school to help their mothers.

At community and global level women's voices need to be heard if effective solutions and responses to the growing impacts of climate change are to be agreed. Ireland has provided funding to the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice since 2010 to convene key women leaders and promote women's leadership in the UNFCCC global climate change negotiation process. And when speaking about the need for women's voices at the global level, we

are particularly pleased that our former President, Mary Robinson, was able to participate in this discussion today as UN Special Envoy for Climate Change.

Realising rights starts with awareness among the population of climate issues. In 2014, Ireland launched a new National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development to bring education on themes including sustainability, citizenship and climate change into school curricula and teacher training. An advisory group has been established to steer implementation over the period to 2020.

As mentioned during this morning's discussion, we believe that the integration of human rights into climate policy can be achieved through participation, sustainability, transparency, accountability, education and access to information. In Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is currently facilitating a public consultation process, inviting submissions from interested parties on a discussion document on the potential for greenhouse gas mitigation within the agriculture and forest sector.

We would be grateful if the panellists could elaborate on any good practices where a gender perspective has been employed at national level in efforts to realise the right to food.

Thank you Mr President.