



UN Commission on the Status of Women, 66th Session

14 - 25 March 2022

General Debate

National Statement of Ireland

Thank you. Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Madam Chairperson,

We are meeting in extraordinary times. At the outset, let me express Ireland's full solidarity with all women and girls living in conflict situations and other emergencies. We know that women and girls are particularly impacted by these crises.

We stand in solidarity with women and girls in Ukraine, millions of whom have been forced to flee their homes, and commend their resilience and courage in the face of an unprovoked military invasion from Russia.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military invasion of Ukraine, which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter, and undermines international security and stability. We reiterate our demand that Russia immediately withdraw its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against Ukraine or against any other Member State.

Madam Chairperson,

The Secretary-General has rightly identified gender inequality, coupled with the climate and environment crisis, as the greatest sustainable development challenges of our time

Ireland proudly reaffirms our commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. This is a top priority in our domestic and in our foreign policy. We deliver on this through our international development programming and our prioritisation of issues such as social protection, food systems, climate action and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Women contribute to the vast majority of the world's food production, yet own only a small proportion of the land. Women, make up 80% of those displaced by climate change, they are most often the primary caregivers and central to rebuilding livelihoods. Gender inequalities mean women are more directly and severely impacted by climate change. Climate and security are linked. Instability and fragility impact women disproportionately.

Yet women's role in addressing the climate crisis is often overlooked, and too often, undervalued. States must take action to ensure that women's voices are heard at all levels, from grassroots to international fora. Funding supports, engagement with civil society and gender balanced delegations should maximise women's voices and ensure their full, equal and meaningful representation 'at the decision-making table'.

Ireland recognises the crucial need for women-led, gender-responsive solutions to the climate crisis. We believe in its potential value added. To this end, we provide finance to the UNFCCC to support countries to include women and girls in climate action. We also support NGOs that work directly with grassroots and women-led organisations.

Ireland's international action and our climate finance is underpinned by the principles of climate justice. We focus on countries and communities most vulnerable to climate change, including women, girls and youth in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. To achieve climate justice, we must ensure that women and girls' voices are heard and heeded.

Ireland has committed to ensuring a gender balanced membership of our Climate Change Advisory Council, in our ambitious Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, which was enacted last year. This makes good sense.

Madam Chairperson,

Ireland has pioneered Citizens Assemblies as exercises in participatory democracy. In 2021, our Parliament received the eagerly anticipated report of the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality. The 45 recommendations in the report represented **a vision for Ireland where gender equality is the norm**. The Government is already actively working on making many of the recommendations made by our citizens. We are building our capacity to tag and track the impact of expenditure on equality and our climate change response. We are working towards a national equality data strategy, and using national data to assess gender-equitable norms in Irish society.

Madam Chairperson,

The global upheaval caused by COVID has made stark the reality that women still face far greater obstacles in the labour market than men.

Ireland has a deep and abiding commitment to making gender equality a reality. Ireland calls on the Commission to adopt strong and ambitious conclusions. We all have an important responsibility in delivering on that agenda for women globally.

Throughout my career, I have seen first-hand the critical work of feminist climate action activists. Women have their rightful place in that unfinished work, let's ensure we use this CSW to deliver

Thank you Madam Chairperson.