



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming: 30th
anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

24 February 2020

Madam President,

Ireland welcomes today's discussion on the mainstreaming of children's rights within the United Nations system, and thanks the panellists for their perspectives on this topic.

For 30 years, the Convention on the Rights of the Child has provided a clear legal framework for promoting and protecting the rights of the Child. Its status as the human rights instrument with the highest number of State Parties is proof of the importance attached to it by the international community.

More recently, the Sustainable Development Goals have offered us the opportunity to enhance our focus on mainstreaming children's rights, by recognising that the rights of the child are a fundamental enabling factor for sustainable development and vice versa. However, children still face significant and enduring obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights.

A key challenge identified, in policy and in practice, is the invisibility of children in decision-making processes. This is not just about their participation as engaged actors. It also requires us to have access to reliable and timely data and evidence to inform the child-centred approach that is inherent in the concept of mainstreaming.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has made it clear that collection of sufficient and reliable data on children, with children themselves as a primary source, is an essential part of implementation of the CRC. To put it simply, in our increasingly data-driven society, in order to change the situation of children, we must be sure to count them.

Madame President, how can member states support the United Nations system in ensuring that there is adequate data available on the particular situation, vulnerabilities and needs of children, so as to ensure their views are taken into account?

Thank you.