



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **45th session of the Human Rights Council**

#### ***Item 10 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia***

**2 October 2020**

Madame President,

Ireland wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for her update and aligns with the statement of the EU.

Ireland is concerned at the continued repression of civil and political rights in Cambodia, and the lack of implementation of the Special Rapporteur's recommendations.

In particular, we are concerned by the enactment of a State of Emergency law in April 2020 that further restricts civil society actors, political activists and journalists from exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. It is also crucial that any limitations on the free flow of information, especially online, are also temporary in nature.

Ireland is alarmed by reports of threats and harassment against human rights defenders and cases of arbitrary arrest and detention. We call on authorities in Cambodia to uphold their obligations under international human rights law, and immediately release all unlawfully held detainees.

We urge the Government to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur to create conditions conducive to free political participation and civil expression. We also urge the government to repeal or review the Law on Political Parties, and the Law on Non-Governmental Organisations.

*Madame Special Rapporteur, you have noted that there has been very little progress on the implementation of your previous recommendations. Given the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated operational limitations, how can the international community support your work in the coming year?*

Thank you.