



## Statement of Ireland

### 45th session of the Human Rights Council

#### *Item 3 General Debate*

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU. Ireland thanks the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General for the range of reports presented to this session.

Ireland welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the **death penalty**. While we note the positive steps taken toward universal abolition, Ireland remains concerned that these advances are tempered by worrying developments, including that the scope for application of the death penalty has been widened in certain States. In parallel, we note with alarm that some States are considering reintroduction of the death penalty or are resuming executions where a moratorium had been in place. Equally concerning is the continuing imposition of the death penalty to juveniles, as well as persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, which is prohibited by international law.

Ireland reiterates our complete opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, and urge all States to adopt a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards its abolition.

With regard to the report of the High Commissioner on **terrorism and human rights**, we thank the High Commissioner for her work on this important issue. Ireland shares the concern expressed in the report that civil society, as well as human rights defenders, may be affected by the abusive or discriminatory application of unduly broad counter-terrorism legislation. It is also crucial that the international community recognises the gender dimension of terrorist acts, so that women and girls negatively affected have the means by which to access justice and seek accountability.

We call on States to ensure all responses to counter violent extremism are in full compliance with international human rights law.

Thank you.

