



**Statement of Ireland**  
**46<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 5: Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms**

**17 March 2021**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm our strong support for the UN's vital human rights pillar.

We reiterate in the clearest terms, our commitment to engage with, and support, its human rights mechanisms.

We call on all States to do the same, including by issuing a standing invitation to all Special Procedure Mandate Holders.

The Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies are an integral part of the UN human rights system. It is our duty and obligation as States to support and defend their integrity and independence, as well as to ensure they have adequate financial and human resources to carry out the work mandated to them, by us.

We pay particular tribute to the efforts made by these mechanisms to continue with their work in spite of the immense challenges presented by COVID.

Ireland welcomes this year's annual report and we commend the leadership provided by the Coordination Committee.

The contribution of civil society to the effective functioning of human rights bodies and mechanisms is also critical.

As such, acts of intimidation and reprisal against those seeking to cooperate with these mechanisms or mandate holders themselves must be condemned by all States in the strongest possible terms.

Thank you.