



Statement of Ireland
48th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: General debate on the High Commissioner's oral update

14/15 September 2021

Thank you Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and we thank the High Commissioner for her statement to the Council.

We welcome the strong focus on the impact of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss on human rights. These challenges persist in every geographic region and require a united response.

In particular, we share the concern that these interlinked crises amplify existing threats, further exacerbating structural inequalities, intensifying conflicts and increasing vulnerability of populations. This is why Ireland is hosting a high level meeting on climate and security during our Security Council presidency this month.

Further, as a strong supporter of human rights defenders, at home and abroad, Ireland is gravely concerned that environmental human rights defenders are being threatened, harassed and killed with impunity. They, and civil society more broadly, are critical to an effective response to the impacts of climate change.

Madame High Commissioner,

The heightened risk exposure of women and girls to climate and environmental harms cannot be ignored.

Ireland is strongly committed, in both domestic and international arenas, to ensuring that our climate action is gender responsive.

We must recognise the specific risks to women and girls' rights in adverse climate conditions and ensure that their voices are heard, and heeded, at all levels of climate policy making and practice, including in international fora.

We take this opportunity to underline our unequivocal support for your work, Madame High Commissioner, for the Office that you lead, and for the independence of its activities.

Thank you