



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

14 March 2022

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and Ireland thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report. I would like to reiterate Ireland's strong support for this important mandate.

We commend the Special Rapporteur for his choice of theme. As the report sets out, the unprecedented and rapid growth of the use of artificial intelligence, automated decision-making and machine-learning technologies has profound consequences on the enjoyment of human rights.

For persons with disabilities, the outcomes can be both positive and negative – on the one hand providing opportunities to advance the goal of “inclusive equality”, on the other carrying unique and disproportionate challenges to the realisation of their human rights. We are particularly concerned that poor or unrepresentative data sets in the development of artificial intelligence leads to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination of persons with disabilities.

As the report underlines, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations must be front and centre in discussions on the development, procurement and deployment of artificial intelligence systems – and this is recognised in Ireland's National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

Can you elaborate on possible engagement with National Human Rights Institutions, which, as you have made clear, have a very important role to play?

Thank you.

[208 words]