



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming – Human rights in the light of multilateralism: opportunities, challenges and the way forward

25 February 2019

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr President,

We thank the distinguished panellists for their insights.

An effective, rules-based multilateral order is essential to the global promotion and protection of human rights. Ireland has long been resolutely committed to engaging in all relevant multilateral fora, be they regional or international, to advance the cause of human rights.

Ireland remains concerned by reprisals and acts of intimidation that seek to discourage civil society and human rights defenders from engaging with international human rights bodies, representatives and mechanisms. Civil society and human rights defenders play a vital role in advancing human rights. In the context of this year's panel discussion, Ireland would like to particularly commend the invaluable work of environmental human rights defenders. Civil society and human rights defenders, including environmental human rights defenders, should be able to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, without fear of reprisal and we praise the ongoing efforts of the President of the HRC and the Bureau to ensure that this objective is realised.

Ireland also reiterates its support for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and we join the call for a gender-responsive implementation of the Global Compact.

Mr President,

Throughout the world, multilateralism is under threat while civil society actors continue to face attacks, reprisals and acts of intimidation for their work in advancing human rights and for their engagement with international human rights mechanisms. With that in mind, Ireland would welcome the views of the panellists as to how we can do more to support the effective participation of civil society in multilateral fora.

Thank you.