Check Against Delivery

Statement of Ireland

79th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Third Committee

Interactive Dialogue with:

Chair of the Committee against Torture, Mr. Claude HELLER

Chair of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Ms. Suzanne JABBOUR

Special Rapporteur on the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Ms. Alice Jill EDWARDS

25 October 2024

Thank you [Chair]

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the presenters for highlighting the urgent need to advance gender equality meaningfully.

We would be interested in your views on *how we can best engage men and boys as allies in countering the backlash against gender equality?*

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a necessary condition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Working Group has clearly articulated the features of the backlash against gender equality, which includes growing opposition to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Women and girls, in all their diversity, should be able to decide freely over their bodies, and how, when and if to have children. They should have access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and to the education and protection to live a life free from sexual and gender-based violence. This includes equitable access to affordable, appropriate and high quality health services. Ireland urges all States to provide these services and protect these existing rights.

Ireland also supports the rights of women and girls not to face discrimination or exclusion based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Ireland recognises that civil society and human rights defenders play an essential role in progressing gender equality. Stepping up our support for and engagement with women's rights

organisations and feminist movements is essential if we are to fulfil our shared commitment to universal human rights and leaving no-one behind.