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Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 10: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report by OHCHR on addressing the challenges and barriers to the full realisation and enjoyment of the human rights of the people of the Marshall Islands, stemming from the State's nuclear legacy

4 October 2024

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the OHCHR for its update.

Any testing or use of nuclear weapons would, and has, caused immense human suffering and environmental degradation. Today many people – often those most marginalised or vulnerable – as well as the planet, continue to suffer the enduring consequences of nuclear weapons testing.

As this report highlights, nuclear legacy is not just a chapter in history, but a continuing reality for the Marshallese people. Ireland welcomes work underway to recognise these harms, including the victim and environmental assistance provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and appreciates the use of a transitional justice approach. We commend the Marshall Islands for their engagement with OHCHR, seeking to build their capacity to address the human rights impacts of this legacy.

The consequences of the testing or use of nuclear weapons transcend national borders and cannot be understated. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is integral and, until its entry into force, all States must uphold the global norm established against nuclear testing and abide by all testing moratoria.

Ireland's long-standing engagement on this reflects our principled position on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, respect for human rights, and the promotion of civil society voices. We remain resolute in this position, and will continue to work with the Marshall Islands and other Small Island Developing States to address their specific vulnerabilities and support their vital engagement at the UN.