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Joint Statement by the Core Group on Reprisals

Item 5: Interactive Dialogue on the UN Secretary General's report on reprisals

Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Reprisals core group members, Fiji, Ghana, Hungary, Uruguay, and my own country, Ireland.

We welcome the Secretary General's report, and commend the continued efforts of the Assistant Secretary-General to address acts of intimidation or reprisal across the UN system.

As members of the core group on reprisals, we firmly believe in the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to access, cooperate, and communicate freely with international bodies, including the United Nations and its mechanisms. No barriers, legal or otherwise, should be placed in the way of this.

We are therefore gravely concerned by reports of reprisals against those seeking to engage with the United Nations. We are also further concerned by the fact that the true number of cases is higher than reported, due to a climate of fear and the security concerns of victims.

We condemn all acts of intimidation or reprisal, both online and offline, by State and non-State actors, against those who seek to engage with United Nations and its mechanisms. Such acts have a chilling effect and undermine the credibility of the UN.

We urge all Member States to put an end to acts of intimidation and reprisal against human rights defenders and civil society actors, and to ensure their unhindered participation in this Council and across UN mechanisms.

Thank you.