

Delegation from the Republic of Ireland
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security, II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All and III. Combating Human Trafficking. The Republic of Ireland considers these issues to be of great relevance for the Member States and will be appreciative of the international community's willingness to work together on these important subjects.

I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. Considering the immense human suffering which would arise from the detonation of a nuclear weapon, they pose a serious threat to the survival of the entire human race. The Republic of Ireland appreciates all efforts made by the international community to work on the issue, especially the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) which seeks to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The NPT was adopted by the GA in 1968 and Ireland was the first country invited to sign thanks to its pioneering role in the development process. More recently, Ireland also played a leading role in the process that led to the adoption of the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (TPNW) in 2017. The TPNW is the first globally applicable multilateral agreement for the prohibition of nuclear weapons. We are a member of the *New Agenda Coalition* (NAC) which was founded in 1998 and aims at promoting nuclear disarmament. On top of that, we acted as President of the *Conference on Disarmament* (CD) in 2013 where Member States discussed disarmament of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Furthermore, we are a member of the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA) since 1970 and of the *Chemical Weapons Convention* (CWC) since its funding in 1997. For Ireland, promoting disarmament is one of five signature foreign policies for our country and considered an international priority of peace and security. Ireland considers nuclear disarmament as its historic, long-standing priority and recognizes the importance of civil society engagement to achieve this goal. We therefore appreciate our strong international partners such as the disarmament programme *Reaching Critical Will* who cooperate with our country in this matter. Keeping in mind the widespread and catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, we would like to encourage stronger international efforts to prevent their intentional or unintentional detonation by calling upon Member States that have not yet ratified the key treaties of nuclear disarmament to do so, while those who already accepted them to improve their implementation within national laws. In order to encourage all Member States to eliminate weapons of mass destruction sustainably, and in a way that does not harm the environment, we recommend the establishment of an UN Forum on Sustainable Nuclear Disarmament (UNFSND). The UNFSND welcomes independent experts, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to share their knowledge in order to ensure that the required technical expertise for sustainable disarmament is made available to all Member States. The UNFSND aims at creating a network of transparency with interstate cooperation and communication, allowing both, Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) to establish positive effects concerning their national security, arms control and international predictability. The testing and possession of nuclear weapons would be more transparent, in accordance with domestic law, and thus reduce the risk of a nuclear arms race. Under the administration of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), this Forum would be financed through voluntary contributions from UN Member States.

II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge the world has ever faced and a huge part of the energy sources consumed worldwide contribute to it. The use of fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and causes high carbon emissions that eventually lead to the greenhouse effect. Our energy consumption provokes global temperature to rise, being now the highest on record according to the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We are therefore highly motivated to address the issue of climate change by promoting renewable energy sources worldwide. The Republic of Ireland supports the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 stating to "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all". We also appreciate the *Paris Agreement* which was adopted by the 21st Conference of the Parties to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) in 2016. Ireland supports the EU revised *Renewable Energy Directive (2018)* which sets rules for the EU to achieve its 32% renewables target by 2030 and promotes cooperation mechanisms inbetween EU countries. In 2016, we generated 22% of our electricity from renewable energy sources and in 2017, Ireland displaced 1.8 Mtoe of fossil fuel consumption with renewable energy and avoided 4.2 MtCO₂ of greenhouse gas emissions. To

improve the role of renewable energy solutions in mitigating climate change, the Republic of Ireland recommends to focus on the improvement of access to renewable energy technologies. In order to do so, we propose the establishment of an Expert Group on Renewable Energy Technologies in Combating Climate Change (EGRETCCC). The EGRETCCC, under the administration of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), should in the first step investigate the particular needs of Member States who have not yet access to renewable energy technologies during the hasty development of climate change in order to analyse possible deficiencies in this field. The second step of the EGRETCCC should be to report to the GA on how to improve access for every Member State to renewable energy technologies in order to ensure that the required technical expertise is made available to all Member States. The EGRETCCC aims at supporting governments worldwide to transform their renewable energy markets and identify and implement policies that support investment in renewable energy technologies. The EGRETCCC primarily focuses on the issue of climate change and how the international community can address the problem of energy sources while fighting climate change. We propose that the EGRETCCC may be financed through the Environment Fund of the UNEP as well as voluntary contributions of Member States. The Republic of Ireland suggests that the EGRETCCC meets twice every year in Dublin (Ireland) and may be advised by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to ensure that developing countries are well-represented.

III. Combating Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing crime. According to the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* (2018) by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 72% of the victims detected across the world are female. Among these victims, 45% have been trafficked for sexual exploitation as trafficking for sexual exploitation continues to be the most detected form of human trafficking. Considering that the prosecution rates remain alarmingly low, the Republic of Ireland is highly dedicated to address this issue in the international community. Ireland supports the establishment of the *United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol*, the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition of trafficking in persons, which entered into force in 2003. We also consider the *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons* which was adopted in 2010 to be of great relevance as it promotes the eradication of human-trafficking. We appreciate the European legislation on anti-trafficking policy under the *Directive on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting its Victims* of 2011. We meet our obligations under these legislations through the *Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008* and the *Criminal Law (Human Trafficking)(Amendment) Act 2013*, which are the primary legislations that deal with human trafficking in our country. In 2016, we launched the *Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland*, which builds on the framework set up under the first *National Action Plan* (2008) to respond to an increasingly organised and sophisticated international crime. The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in the Irish Department of Justice and Equality embodies a key role in our national anti-trafficking policy, as it presents the *Annual Reports on Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland* and assists in issues between State agencies providing services to victims. Concerning the support for victims of human trafficking, Ireland has put in place a National Referral Mechanism, which covers all aspects of victim support. The *Blue Blindfold Campaign* was established to further raise awareness and provide information on the trafficking of persons. The Republic of Ireland abhors the highly gendered nature of these crimes that affect especially women and girls and often involve devastating exploitation in the sex industry. It acknowledges that more than 90% of the prostituted are vulnerable migrant women and identifies them therefore as especially exposed to the issue. In order to improve the support for women at risk, we recommend the international community to raise awareness among those women at risk and among consumers that drive sexual exploitation. Therefore, we recommend the establishment of an international campaign, having the *Blue Blindfold Campaign* as its inspiration, called the *International Campaign to Combat Human Trafficking* (ICCHT). Under the administration of the UNODC, we suggest that this campaign would be financed through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for victims of trafficking. We especially welcome representatives of UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide global access to expertise and knowledge within the ICCHT. The aim of ICCHT would be to increase awareness worldwide by giving victims a voice as it would share their experiences and thus remind everyone about the immense suffering human trafficking causes. ICCHT also aims to establish innovative partnerships between Member States and civil society to combat human trafficking globally by proactively developing effective, evidence-based crime prevention measures and sharing information in order to improve assistance for women, especially migrant women, and to reduce the demand from consumers that drive sexual exploitation.