Statement

Disarmament Machinery

UNGA74 First Committee

New York, 30th October 2019
Ireland National Statement
Disarmament Machinery

Thank You Chair,

Ireland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Ireland remains committed to an effective UN disarmament machinery, which facilitates our ability to make progress on our shared objectives. The multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation machinery plays a vital role in facilitating cooperative, constructive engagement and maintaining peace and security. The First Committee of the UN General Assembly provides us with a valuable opportunity.

Ireland remains concerned by the ongoing deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament and its continued failure to reach consensus on an agreed programme of work. We must demonstrate the necessary flexibility and political will to achieve genuine progress.

Ireland supports the important role of the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) as a deliberative body of the UN General Assembly on disarmament matters. We were deeply disappointed that the UNDC was unable to hold formal substantive deliberations this year. This reflects the broader malaise impacting our disarmament machinery and we must redouble our efforts to ensure that it is revitalised.

Ireland remains disappointed that disarmament meetings have been curtailed or cancelled due to shortfalls in funding. We reiterate the strong need for all States to pay their assessed contributions in a timely manner to avoid negative impacts on vital disarmament work.

Ireland fully supports UN Secretary General Guterres’ Agenda for Disarmament, which presents us with a rare opportunity to break the stalemate and to facilitate the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Chair,
Ireland continues to advocate for broad engagement and participation of civil society across disarmament fora and Ireland believes that this participation should be further supported.

In ensuring the diversity of voice and participation in the disarmament machinery, Ireland is committed to the inclusion of women and youth. Gender equality has long been a priority for Ireland, and we are proud to co-chair the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group (DIG). Through our work in the DIG, Ireland, Canada, Namibia and UNIDIR took practical steps toward realising gender equality and the inclusion of gender perspectives in the disarmament machinery. We thank Member States and other stakeholders who have contributed to this work and welcome all efforts to prioritise gender in our work.

We welcome that for the first time, all key UN disarmament appointments positions are held by women.

Ireland strongly encourages a proactive approach to promote the participation of youth in disarmament fora. Youth movements can be engaged to provide views from affected communities and under-represented populations, and they can bring fresh and creative ideas to well-established institutions. Ireland welcomes the focus on youth in the Secretary General Guterres’ aims to establish more education and training opportunities for young people to work in the field of disarmament.

Thank you