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ENGLISH only



**Buanscaireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Comhoibriú agus Slándáil san Eoraip**
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

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Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I note that Ireland was mentioned by the Russian Federation and I would like to exercise my right to reply.

Ireland does not pretend to be perfect when it comes to the elimination of racial discrimination. However, I would like to note that, two days ago, the Government of Ireland launched a comprehensive National Action Plan Against Racism.

This National Action Plan was developed by an independent Anti-Racism Committee, which includes members of civil society.

The National Action Plan represents a national level, State-led, co-ordinated approach to eliminating racism in all its forms in Ireland. The year-one Implementation Plan has been agreed across government and €1 million in funding has been made available for anti-racism initiatives.

The Government of Ireland takes its responsibilities in ensuring the fundamental rights and freedoms of all its people very seriously. We are working towards the creation of an inclusive Ireland, where everyone feels safe to live their own lives.