



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

12 March 2019

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to add the following.

Mr Vice President,

Ireland is deeply concerned by the level of violence described within the Commission's report and condemns the gross human rights violations which have been documented therein. These violations perpetuate and deepen the humanitarian crisis and have a devastating impact on the lives of the South Sudanese people.

We are appalled at the reported cases of sexual violence against women and girls and we are concerned about the reports of abduction and forced recruitment of boys and young men into armed forces and armed groups.

The issues of accountability, justice and reconciliation are fundamental pillars of any peace process.

We call on the leaders of South Sudan to demonstrate their commitment to the effective implementation of the revitalised peace agreement, including the commitment to the protection of human rights and the safety and wellbeing of the South Sudanese people.

We re-iterate our call on the Government of South Sudan to implement the transitional justice and accountability mechanisms contained in the revitalised peace agreement, to invest in national processes of investigation, prosecution and judicial processes and to move forward with the establishment of the Hybrid Court.

The perpetrators of the egregious acts outlined in this report must be held to account and the impunity for such violence brought to an end.

Members of the Commission, in your recent report, you note the challenges identified regarding accountability and justice in addressing the pervasive impunity for violations of human rights in South Sudan. Could you elaborate more on what concrete steps should be taken in this regard to ensure full accountability for the alleged violations of Human Rights?

Thank you.