



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

10 March 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Ireland fully aligns with the EU's statement and would also like to draw attention to our statements on the situations in **Burundi**, **DPRK**, **Iran**, **Myanmar** and **South Sudan** delivered during the respective interactive dialogues.

In **Syria** and **Yemen**, where conflict continues to devastate the lives of millions, Ireland re-iterates the need to protect civilians and allow unrestricted humanitarian access. We are gravely concerned for the fate of hundreds of thousands of displaced people in Idlib. We call on all parties to pursue peaceful, political solutions and engage with the relevant UN mechanisms.

In the **occupied Palestinian territory**, recent announcements on the construction of illegal settlements in and near East Jerusalem are deeply damaging to the prospects for peace. Ireland is particularly troubled by recent threats of unilateral annexation of parts of the West Bank. Any such annexation is clearly prohibited under international law.

In **Venezuela**, the human rights and humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. Ireland calls for the end to all repression and intimidation against parliamentarians, journalists and independent voices.

We are continuing to witness shrinking civil society space around the globe. In the **Russian Federation**, recent amendments to the Foreign Agents Law extending its remit to individuals and additional organisations are having a chilling effect on freedom of expression and association. In **Turkey** the continued detention of human rights defenders is of profound concern. Ireland calls on both Russia and Turkey to fully respect their international human rights commitments.

Ireland remains alarmed at the continued application of the death penalty in all regions and wishes to restate its strong opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances. We urge all States to introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition.

Thank you.