



**Statement of Ireland**  
**44<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

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Item 4: Enhanced ID on the oral reports of the Government of the Sudan and OHCHR on progress towards the opening of a country office

**16 July 2020**

Madam President, *[Mr/Madam Vice-President,]*

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and thanks the Government of Sudan and the OHCHR for their presentations.

Ireland stands in solidarity with Sudan at this critical juncture as it embarks on an ambitious reform programme to foster peace, security and economic growth, while also facing many significant challenges, not least COVID-19.

Ireland welcomes progress on tackling human rights issues including the recent criminalisation of FGM, repeal of the death sentence for apostasy, and the amendment of laws which severely curtailed women's right to travel. We urge the authorities to ensure that these legal reforms are translated into meaningful change in practice. Further positive steps include the agreement to establish an OHCHR presence in Sudan and we are encouraged by the progress made in this regard, as outlined today, and the prominence of human rights in the mandate of the new UN Political Mission, UNITAMS.

However, one year on from the violent attacks on demonstrators in Khartoum that resulted in significant loss of life and sexual and gender-based violence, the perpetrators have yet to be held accountable. Ending impunity and ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice are essential steps on the road to peace in Sudan.

Ireland hopes that, with the OHCHR's support, Sudan will continue to deliver on its commitments with respect to human rights, including on transitional justice and on the strengthening of democratic and civic space.

*Madam Deputy High Commissioner, how can the international community support coherence between the work of the OHCHR and UNITAMS?*

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