



Statement of Ireland

46th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

10 March 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU. We thank the Commission for its update and for its continued efforts in documenting the human rights situation in South Sudan.

The peace process in South Sudan is at a critical juncture. While we welcome some recent signs of progress on implementing the peace agreement, much remains to be done, including the establishment of the transitional national legislative assembly, and progress on transitional security arrangements. Broad based political accommodation, and free and active engagement by civil society, is critical for the long-term stability of South Sudan.

Ireland is particularly concerned by the current levels of violence against civilians, and the alarming rates of sexual and gender based violence.

The humanitarian situation remains deeply worrying with almost half the population facing severe food insecurity. It is critically important that aid workers can continue their humanitarian work uninterrupted and without fear of attack.

Impunity remains a significant challenge. We welcome recent steps towards the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms. It is imperative that these are now established as a matter of urgency, as a vital step towards improving justice and accountability in South Sudan.

Members of the Commission, what further measures can the international community take to address the extremely high level of violence against civilians?