



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update on Tigray

4 March, 2022

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

We note constructive steps taken by Ethiopia, including the recent lifting of the nationwide state of emergency. However, we remain deeply concerned by the human rights and humanitarian situation in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions of Ethiopia. We condemn the continued human rights violations and abuses committed by all parties. Systemic sexual and gender based violence has had a particularly harrowing impact on the population, while airstrikes have continued to claim the lives of civilians. These violations must end, and all efforts must be made to seek accountability for perpetrators and redress for victims.

The devastating humanitarian crisis has compounded the suffering of civilians. We echo calls for unimpeded access, an immediate and meaningful ceasefire, and inclusive political dialogue aimed at ending the conflict. We fully support the mediation efforts led by High Representative Obasanjo.

The Joint Investigation was an important step towards accountability, and Ireland supports the full implementation of the recommendations by all parties. Given ongoing severe human rights violations, we reiterate the EU's call on all parties to cooperate with the international commission of human rights experts, including by allowing unimpeded access to all parts of the country.

How can the international community best support efforts to ensure accountability for human rights violations in northern Ethiopia?

[244 WORDS]