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Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on the UN High Commissioner's report on the occupied Palestinian territory

3 March 2023

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

As set out in your report, High Commissioner, it is of deep concern that the human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory has continued to deteriorate leading to a sharp increase in civilian casualties.

We share the High Commissioner's concern at the lack of accountability for alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by duty bearers in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Gaza. We underline, in particular, the requirement for Israel, as occupying power, to protect civilians and to act in a manner consistent with its obligations under international humanitarian law.

Ireland condemns Israel's announcement of the further construction and expansion of settlements and the "legalization" of settlement outposts. We repeat our call on Israel to cease all settlement activity, and to comply fully with Resolution 2334.

Ireland is alarmed at the reduced space for civil society in the occupied Palestinian territory. We support your call on Israel to revoke the designations against Palestinian civil society organisations as terrorist entities and your call on all duty bearers to ensure that the rights of freedom of expression and association are respected and protected.

High Commissioner,

We welcome the inclusion in your report of a dedicated section on gender-based violence, including against women human rights defenders. What is your perspective in terms of the priority actions in this area?