



Statement of Ireland

43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

26 February 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner for her report presented to the Council today.

The recommendations, which are addressed to all parties, include a clear call for the protection of civilians participating in demonstrations, and for accountability for violations, including those that occurred during the 2018 protests. We regret that so little progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the CoI on those protests.

Ireland does not dispute that Israel, like every country, has the right to defend its territory. International law, however, clearly defines the circumstances in which force, and in particular lethal force, can be used against civilians. In line with the report's recommendations, we would urge Israel to make every effort to ensure that it complies with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, in the oPt.

The de facto authorities in Gaza must also meet their obligations. In particular, we urge them to permanently stop the use of incendiary balloons and kites, in line with previous recommendations.

We regret that there has been further violence since the CoI finished its work, notably in May and November 2019, which resulted in a significant number of civilian casualties, including child casualties. The death and injury of children, as documented in the report, is a matter of grave concern, and we call on all parties to meet their obligation to protect children in conflict situations.

Madame High Commissioner, we would be interested in hearing more from you on how States might support the implementation of the recommendations in your report, as well as previous recommendations of the CoI on the 2018 protests, including those on ensuring access to medical services for injured persons including children.

Thank you.