



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

9 March 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Ireland thanks the Commission for the submission of its fourth mandate report, which comes at a time of great significance in South Sudan. Ireland welcomes the formation of the transitional unity government on 22 February. This represents a key step towards achieving lasting peace and stability in the country.

Ireland acknowledges the work done by all parties to achieve this important milestone. However, as this report makes clear, enormous challenges remain.

We share the view that if peace is to be sustainable, it must be inclusive. We welcome therefore the commitment to a minimum of 35% women's participation in the executive, which is critical in this regard, as is the commitment to establish a Hybrid Court and transitional justice instruments. However, we are extremely concerned by reports that sexual and gender-based violence continues to be widespread and pervasive and we call for those who are responsible for these acts to be held accountable.

Ireland also believes that civil society organisations play a critical role in promoting good governance and in building peaceful societies. We are extremely concerned by the reports of threats by government forces against journalists, activists, human rights defenders and other members of civil society. We strongly support the report's recommendation to the Government to ensure freedom of expression and assembly.

Members of the Commission, what can the international community do, at this crucial time, to support the Transitional Government's full implementation of the peace agreement and in particular the provisions relating to the promotion and protection of human rights?

Thank you.