



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **46th session of the Human Rights Council**

#### **General Debate, Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

**18 March 2021**

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner for her reports.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by both continuing and planned further settlement expansion, especially in sensitive areas such as Har Homa, Givat Hamatos and E1. Ireland urges Israel to halt settlement expansion and to refrain from advancing such plans, which undermine the viability of a future Palestinian state. It is vital that all parties demonstrate their commitment to a two-State solution.

Ireland is committed to accountability. We will continue to speak out against actions that are in breach of international law.

The acceleration in demolitions and confiscations of Palestinian-owned structures and property in recent months is deeply concerning, particularly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. We call on Israel to halt demolitions and allow for legal construction for Palestinian communities.

Ireland welcomes and supports the planned holding of Palestinian elections and we encourage all efforts to ensure a free, fair, and inclusive electoral process. We call on Israel to facilitate voting, including in East Jerusalem. We remain concerned about continued pressure on Israeli and Palestinian human rights defenders and civil society organisations, and would like to underline the importance of civil society space, particularly ahead of upcoming elections.

Finally, Ireland remains deeply concerned about the lack of accountability for use of lethal force against Palestinian civilians, and other possible violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. We unreservedly condemn all attacks on civilians, including the

launching of rockets and incendiary balloons from Gaza which endanger Israeli civilians, and persistent acts of settler violence against Palestinians.