



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **47th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory*

**9 July 2021**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

The human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory remains a matter of deep concern; the recent hostilities demonstrate the urgent need to address the root causes of the conflict.

We are particularly concerned by the scale and pace of Israel's settlement policy and activities, which are illegal under international law. In particular, the apparent permanency of these measures undermines the viability of a two-state solution. We call on the Israeli authorities to cease settlement expansion, and to halt demolitions and evictions including in East Jerusalem.

We unreservedly condemn all attacks on civilians, including indiscriminate rocket and mortar fire from the Gaza Strip, and acts of settler violence against Palestinians. Israel must ensure that its armed forces act in accordance with the principles of proportionality, distinction and precaution in the conduct of hostilities.

Ireland shares your concerns regarding the protection of individuals exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, association and expression, particularly in recent protests, including in East Jerusalem. We support the High Commissioner's calls for prompt, transparent and independent investigation of any unnecessary or disproportionate use of force.

*Special Rapporteur, we would welcome your views on how accountability for settler violence can be ensured.*

Thank you.