



Statement of Ireland

49th Session of the Human Rights Council

*Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights
in the Mali*

28 March

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the EU.

Ireland notes the statement following the Independent Expert's most recent visit to Mali with respect to improvements in the security and human rights situation in parts of the country. However, more significant action is required to address the ongoing dire security, human rights and humanitarian situation. In particular, we are gravely concerned by reports of increased attacks against civilians.

Impunity for human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by different actors, including national security forces, remains a significant challenge. Ireland calls upon the Malian authorities to tackle impunity by taking action to ensure all perpetrators of violations and abuses are held accountable, including those responsible for attacks on civilians and for extra-judicial killings.

We call on the Malian authorities to take concrete action to promote and protect the rights of women and girls, including by proactively combatting sexual and gender-based violence, and by ensuring the right to education, in particular for adolescent girls. Widespread school closures are disproportionately affecting girls and are contributing to an increase in child, early and forced marriages, and increasing the risk of sexual exploitation.

Mr. Tine, what are the key areas that the Malian authorities and the international community must immediately address to improve the human rights situation for women and girls in Mali?

Thank you.