



Statement of Ireland

50th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on the oral briefing of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

30 June 2022

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Chair of the Commission for her update.

We remain deeply concerned by continuing reports of severe and wide-scale human rights violations and abuses committed by all parties in conflict-affected areas of Ethiopia, as well as violations of humanitarian and refugee law. These violations must end, and all efforts must be made to hold perpetrators accountable and seek redress for survivors. A massive scale-up in protection services is needed including in response to horrific levels of sexual and gender-based violence.

Ireland has warmly welcomed the establishment of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia to complement the important work undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. We also welcome the creation of the Inter-ministerial Taskforce. We call on all parties to cooperate fully with the Commission, including by facilitating access, so that investigations can start immediately.

We also emphasise the importance of creating the conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified returns and relocations of internally displaced people, and ensuring their freedom of movement, in line with Ethiopia's obligations under international humanitarian law.

Chair - does the Commission have access to sufficient credible data to commence adequate remote investigations at this time? What are the current prospects of the Commission travelling to Ethiopia as part of their investigation?