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## **Statement of Ireland**

### **52<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

#### *Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Syria*

**21 March 2023**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Commission of Inquiry for their update.

Ireland expresses its deepest condolences to the victims of the earthquakes in February. We call on all parties to maintain unhindered humanitarian access to affected areas.

Ireland remains gravely concerned by the humanitarian and human rights situation in Syria. We note with deep regret the Commission's assessment that the conflict has intensified across several front lines, with devastating consequences for civilians, and we condemn in the strongest terms these unconscionable attacks.

Ireland condemns the reported use of rape and other forms of sexual violence in government-controlled detention facilities, which the Commission has found amount to crimes against humanity. We similarly condemn the reported use of rape and other forms of sexual violence committed by armed groups in Syria, which the Commission has found amount to war crimes.

We are also concerned by other continuing violations of international law, including systematic arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and torture. Accountability remains vital. We recall our support for the Commission and the IIIM and renew our call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

*Commissioners: how can the international community best support victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence to access essential services and support, including legal support?*