



Statement of Ireland

43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

15 June 2020

Madam President,

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner for her reports submitted to the Council.

Ireland is deeply concerned by statements from Israeli leaders regarding plans for the annexation of parts of the occupied Palestinian territory. The acquisition of territory by force is prohibited under international law. Annexation would be a decisive step away from the commitment to finding an agreed solution through negotiations between the parties.

Announcements in recent months regarding illegal settlement plans in and around East Jerusalem are also deeply worrying. We urge Israel to refrain from advancing such plans, which would undermine the viability of a future Palestinian state.

Ireland is deeply concerned about the lack of accountability for the killing and injury of Palestinian civilians, and other possible violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. It is a matter of grave concern to read that impunity continues, including for incidents of possible excessive use of force by the Israeli Security Forces. We express our condolences to the family of Iyad Hallak, and call on Israel to ensure accountability in this and other cases.

We unreservedly condemn all attacks on civilians, including indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza which recklessly endangers Israeli civilians, and acts of settler violence against Palestinians.

Finally, Ireland remains concerned about continued pressure on Israeli and Palestinian human rights defenders and civil society organisations, including restrictions on freedom of expression by the de facto authorities in Gaza, as well as sustained efforts to prevent scrutiny of the conduct of the occupation.

Thank you.