



## Statement of Ireland

### 45th session of the Human Rights Council

#### *Interactive Dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan*

23 September 2020

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU, and thanks the Commission for its update and for its continued efforts in documenting the human rights situation in South Sudan.

Ireland takes note of the Government of South Sudan's efforts to address sub-national violence, however we are concerned that disarmament campaigns to contain localized violence have generated additional security concerns.

We remain deeply concerned at the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation, and continued escalation in violence, particularly towards women, the elderly and children. The prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence is particularly disturbing, as is the absence of an accountability mechanism for redress of these human rights abuses.

Ireland is concerned by the significant delay in reconstituting the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, which is critical to the implementation of the peace agreement and to the creation of accountability mechanisms. We strongly urge the Government to fulfil these commitments, and also commitments on security sector reform and transitional security arrangements, without further delay.

Ireland calls on the Government to ensure that all communities have rapid and unhindered access to humanitarian aid, and to support the protection of humanitarian workers, in light of the escalating humanitarian situation.

*Members of the Commission, if peace is to be sustainable, it must be inclusive. The peace agreement's commitment to a minimum of 35% women's participation in the executive is therefore critical – how can we support the implementation of this commitment?*

Thank you.