



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **47<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

*Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Human Rights*

**21-22 June 2021**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We thank the High Commissioner for her oral update. Ireland remains a staunch supporter of her office and of its independence.

We are grateful for the many important reports presented to this Session, and share the concerns articulated by the High Commissioner about rising inequality, and increasing pressures on democratic and civic space, in every geographic region.

Ireland will make statements under the relevant Interactive Dialogues, including on the human rights situations in Belarus, Myanmar and, the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We remain deeply concerned by the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Tigray. We welcome the ongoing Joint Investigation by the OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, into allegations of serious violations of international human rights law, and international humanitarian law, including widespread reports of sexual and gender-based violence.

We agree with the High Commissioner's assessment that this is "a time of grave setbacks for human rights".

Inequalities have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and Ireland agrees that the global response must be strongly rooted in a human rights-based approach to recovery, with the UN at the heart of the response.

*Madam High Commissioner, as we navigate a way through this next phase of the pandemic, what can States do to support the meaningful participation of civil society in the recovery process?*

*Thank you.*