



## **Statement of Ireland**

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

*The Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan*

**[Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September]**

Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his update.

The situation in Afghanistan remains grave as human rights violations and abuses persist at the hands of the Taliban. Ireland is particularly concerned by credible allegations of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as torture and ill-treatment. Fundamental freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression, association, and assembly, have been swiftly eroded by the Taliban over the past year. In addition, the right of women and girls to freely participate in all aspects of Afghan society, including their right to education, has been completely undermined.

Ireland also remains deeply concerned by the dire human rights situation facing LGBTQI+ persons in Afghanistan, as well as persons with disabilities and persons belonging to minorities, including ethnic and religious minorities. Ireland recognises the particular risk of persecution facing such groups in Afghanistan and condemns the forced return of Afghan refugees seeking sanctuary.

Ireland continues to engage with civil society in Afghanistan, including Afghan women leaders and human rights defenders, on how best to support the people of Afghanistan particularly when the country faces ongoing humanitarian and economic crises.

*Special Rapporteur, what measures can the international community take to protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities in Afghanistan?*