



Statement of Ireland

45th session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert for Sudan

Friday, 2 October 2020

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Independent Expert for his presentation and his report.

Ireland continues to strongly support Sudan's transitional government which, amid immense challenges, made significant progress in the implementation of the Constitutional Document. We welcome the criminalisation of FGM and progress on the protection of women's rights, including the adoption of a National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. Progress in the operationalisation of the OHCHR's office in Sudan and the strong focus on human rights in UNITAMS's mandate are also welcome steps.

We remain, however, deeply concerned by the human rights and humanitarian crises that exist in conflict-affected areas, including the prevalence of sexual violence, as well as violence against civilians and IDPs. We urge the Government to uphold victims' rights and end impunity for violations through prompt, impartial and thorough investigations. The peace agreement of 31 August provides opportunities in this regard.

Continued delays in providing justice and accountability for crimes committed, including during the events of 3 June 2019, are an impediment to achieving sustainable peace. Sudan's 'restrictive legislative framework governing civic space' as detailed in the report is also a cause for concern, not least because of the important role of civil society in Sudan's transition.

Mr Nonansi, in this regard, could you elaborate on steps that the international community can take to support the strengthening of civic space in Sudan?

Thank you.