



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **49th session of the Human Rights Council**

#### *General Debate, Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab Territories*

**25 March 2022**

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner for her reports.

Announcements in recent months regarding expansion of illegal settlements, particularly in East Jerusalem, are deeply concerning. Ireland urges Israel to cease settlement activity which is illegal under international law and undermines the viability of a two state solution.

Ireland unreservedly condemns all attacks on civilians, including recent attacks in Israel. We are also deeply concerned about persistent acts of settler violence against Palestinians and the prevailing climate of impunity around such acts which serves to encourage further violence. Those responsible must be held accountable for their actions and we recall the responsibility of the Israeli authorities to ensure that all incidents of violence are thoroughly investigated.

Ireland remains concerned about continued pressure on Israeli and Palestinian human rights defenders and civil society organisations, including sustained efforts to prevent scrutiny of the conduct of the occupation. The arrest and intimidation of human rights defenders and activists for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association and the right of peaceful assembly is not acceptable. We call on Israel and the Palestinian Authority to protect these fundamental rights.

Ireland recalls the obligations of all duty bearers to respect and uphold international human rights and humanitarian law.

Thank you.