



Statement of Ireland

51st session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on the report of OHCHR on Sri Lanka

[Monday, 12th September]

Madame Vice President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and welcomes the OHCHR report and the work of the OHCHR Sri Lanka accountability project.

Ireland recognises the dire impact of the current economic and humanitarian situation on the people of Sri Lanka. We urge the government of Sri Lanka to address long-standing grievances in order to secure durable peace, and build confidence with minority communities, while *fully* respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. We encourage Sri Lanka's new government to embark on an inclusive national dialogue to advance the protection of human rights and revive the vital work on the truth and reconciliation and transitional justice processes.

While we note efforts by the Sri Lankan government to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Ireland remains concerned by a number of provisions of this Act, which according to OHCHR have led to alleged human rights violations. We urge the Sri Lankan Government to apply a moratorium on the use of this Act until it is in full compliance with international human rights law.

Acting High Commissioner, we are concerned about recent reports by UNFPA of the increased vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence in Sri Lanka. Does your office have recommendations for how the Sri Lankan Government and the international community can bring attention to and address this issue?