



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

#### *Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on Sudan*

**19 June 2023**

Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the High Commissioner for his update.

Prior to the most recent outbreak of conflict, Sudan was already facing severe human rights and humanitarian challenges. Now the situation is dire.

We are alarmed by reports of attacks on civilians on grounds of ethnicity, as well as increases in conflict-related sexual violence, particularly in Darfur. We echo the call of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide for the prevention of atrocity crimes in Sudan, and for alleged atrocities to be investigated, and perpetrators brought to justice.

Ireland underscores the obligations on the parties to the conflict to respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law, facilitate humanitarian access, and protect health and humanitarian workers. We urge them to agree an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities. A way forward must then be found that ends the cycle of impunity—as clearly demanded by the people of Sudan.

As over 1.9 million people have fled the violence, the international community must also consider its protection responsibilities: ensuring the right of non-refoulement, granting asylum, and support for provision of essential humanitarian assistance.

*High Commissioner, how can the international community address increasing violence with an ethnic dimension and prevent commission of atrocity crimes?*