

**Human Rights Council 39<sup>th</sup> session**  
**Interactive Dialogue with the Commission on South Sudan**  
**National Statement by Ireland**  
**17 September 2018**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Mr Vice President,

Ireland thanks the Commission for its vital work.

The details of the atrocities carried out by all sides are harrowing, and it is clear from this update that the government and opposition have violated International Humanitarian Law on multiple occasions.

Ireland condemns the gross human rights violations being committed. We are particularly appalled at the scale and brutality of sexual violence.

While the signing of the peace agreement in Addis Ababa on 12 September represents an important step, conflict is ongoing and the security situation has not changed significantly.

There are currently over 7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in South Sudan, with conflict the primary underlying cause. Ireland strongly condemns attacks on humanitarian personnel and calls on all parties to ensure unhindered humanitarian access.

We urgently call on the Government of South Sudan to facilitate the immediate establishment of the Hybrid Court. We commend the Commission on South Sudan for its efforts to document evidence that can be utilised in prosecuting crimes against humanity.

Ireland urges all actors to fully implement their commitments under the peace process, and to ensure women and girls are included in the peace process in a full and meaningful manner.

*With conflict-related sexual violence endemic in South Sudan, it is critical that justice and psychosocial support for victims are key pillars of the transitional justice strategy – how might this be achieved?*