



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate on Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

12 March 2019

Thank you, Mr. President.

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We welcome recent progress in peace negotiations on **Yemen**, and call on all parties to engage fully with the UN-led process. We remain gravely concerned about the humanitarian crisis and continuing reports of civilian casualties. We call on all parties to ensure humanitarian and commercial access, protect basic human rights, and to respect the principles of international humanitarian law. We further call on all parties to engage with the work of the Group of Regional and Eminent Experts as they prepare to report to the September Session of the Council.

Ireland reiterates deep concern at the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the **occupied Palestinian territory**, the demolition of Palestinian communities, and the forced transfer of their residents, a clear breach of international law. We call on Israel to afford to Palestinians, and especially to Palestinian minors, the same protections under the law as are extended to Israeli citizens. Ireland remains deeply concerned by reports of pressures on civil society in both Israel and Palestine.

We are disturbed by the documented violations of human rights in **South Sudan**, particularly the level of gender based violence, and call for the implementation of transitional commitments to end the impunity to such violations.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by the situation in **Myanmar**, in particular the recent reports of escalating violence and increasing restrictions on humanitarian access in Rakhine State.

Ireland is also concerned by the ongoing detention of Human Rights Defenders in **Bahrain**.