



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **45th session of the Human Rights Council**

#### **Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic**

**22 September 2020**

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the members of the Commission for their Report and update.

These deeply troubling assessments confirm to this Council that the situation in Syria remains extremely grave. COVID -19, worsening economic conditions and further restriction on cross border humanitarian access are compounding the extreme hardship faced already by millions of vulnerable Syrians. As another winter approaches, we must continue to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches all those in need.

We are extremely disturbed by ongoing reports of enforced disappearances, including of women and children, and arbitrary detentions. Such heinous acts violate the most fundamental of human rights and undermine efforts towards a political solution to the conflict. Ireland calls on all actors exercising effective control of territory in Syria to cease and prevent disappearances and arbitrary detentions, in compliance with international law.

Ireland welcomes the third meeting of the Constitutional Committee and commends the efforts of Special Envoy Pedersen and those working towards a sustainable political solution to the conflict in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

Ireland once more stresses the need for accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses perpetrated during the conflict. We reiterate our support for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism and call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

Distinguished members of the Commission:

How can the international community do more to prevent the ongoing practice of enforced disappearances in Syria?

Thank you.

