



Statement of Ireland

46th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on Oral Update by Special Rapporteur on Eritrea

24 February 2021

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for bringing these important issues to the Council's attention.

We are deeply troubled by Eritrea's lack of compliance with its international human rights obligations. Over five years since the Commission of Inquiry's findings in 2016, including that crimes against humanity had been committed in Eritrean detention facilities, military training camps and other locations, there has been minimal progress towards reform. Arbitrary arrests and incommunicado detention remain common, practices associated with national service continue to violate basic standards, and there is little space for independent civil society to operate.

In this regard, we are extremely concerned by allegations that Eritrean forces have committed widespread violations of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law in the Tigray region of Ethiopia since November 2020. These allegations include killing of civilians, sexual violence, looting and preventing humanitarian access to people in need contributing to immense food insecurity.

We call on Eritrea to urgently comply with its obligations under international law, including those related to the protection of civilians, the prevention of sexual and gender based violence, and the rights of refugees. We also urge Eritrea to cooperate fully with your mandate and OHCHR.

Special Rapporteur - Have you witnessed any progress in Eritrea's implementation of its UPR recommendations?

Thank you.