



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **47th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea*

**Monday, 21 June 2021**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

The situation of human rights in Eritrea – a member of this Council - is of great concern. We note that there has been little to no improvement in the five areas identified in the ‘Benchmarks for progress’.

The situation remains grave in relation to the administration of justice and the rights to freedom of expression and of religion or belief, assembly and movement. Arbitrary arrests continue, as well as incommunicado detention, and indefinite national service.

In the wider region, Eritrea has a role to play in securing peace and development, and an obligation to promote human rights and ensure respect for international humanitarian law. 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. The situation for Eritrean refugees is of particular concern.

We strongly support the ongoing investigations into these allegations. We echo the Special Rapporteur’s call on Eritrea to cooperate with UN and African Union human rights mechanisms to address these human rights challenges.

*Special Rapporteur – How can States and the international community better support efforts to ensure accountability—direct and indirect—for human rights violations in Eritrea?*

*Thank you.*