



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **49th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory*

**24 March 2022**

Ireland thanks the Special Rapporteur for his clear and direct report.

Ireland shares the Special Rapporteur's concern regarding the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. The recent escalation in tensions and violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, demonstrates the urgent need to address the root causes of the conflict.

The intensification of settler-related violence, as outlined in the report, is a matter of particular concern. Ireland supports the Special Rapporteur's call on Israel to protect the Palestinian population against all acts or threats of violence. Ireland also urges Israel to ensure that all incidents of disproportionate use of force are thoroughly investigated, and to hold those responsible accountable.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by discriminatory practices of the Israeli authorities towards the Palestinian people, including settlement expansion and demolitions of Palestinian property. Such actions undermine prospects for peace and lead to an increase in violence.

We remind all duty bearers of their obligations under international human rights and international humanitarian law, and call on all parties to work to reduce tensions, to prevent violence and to contribute to the resolution of long-standing issues.

*Special Rapporteur, noting the shrinking space for civil society in both Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, we would welcome your views on how civil society organisations and human rights defenders can best be supported.*

Thank you.