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## **Statement of Ireland**

### **53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive Dialogue on the Commission of Inquiry's report on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*

**20 June 2023**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Commission for their report.

It is of deep concern that the human rights situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory has continued to deteriorate.

We welcome the focus of the report on the vitally important issue of civil society space.

It is crucial to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for civil society to operate, not to undermine its valuable work and to support its contributions to building fairer and more peaceful societies and the pursuit of accountability. Ireland notes the Commission's reference to the NGO Taxation Bill and welcomes that the Israeli Government has decided not to proceed with this measure.

Ireland is alarmed at the reduced space for civil society in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. We support your call on Israel to revoke the designations against Palestinian civil society organisations as terrorist entities. We also note with concern restrictions placed on civil society actors by the Palestinian Authority.

Ireland calls on all duty bearers to ensure that the rights of freedom of expression and association are respected and protected.

*Commissioners, what do you view as priority actions for the protection and promotion of women human rights defenders?*