

Human Rights Council 39th Session (10th – 28th September 2018)

Item 4 – General Debate

Statement of Ireland

18th September 2018

Thank you Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Ireland remains deeply concerned about the situation in **Yemen**, in particular the ongoing reports of attacks resulting in civilian casualties, and allegations of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

We are gravely concerned by the disturbing findings of the Independent International Fact Finding Mission on **Myanmar** and emphasise the need to establish an appropriate mechanism to investigate and ensure accountability for the human rights violations that have occurred.

Ireland reiterates our deep concern at the continued expansion of **Israeli** settlements in the **Occupied Palestinian Territory**, the demolition of Palestinian communities, and the forcible transfer of their residents, contrary to international law. These actions are an assault on the very viability of a two-state solution. We are also concerned by ongoing efforts to prevent outside observers from scrutinising the conduct of Israel's occupation, and by continued pressure on Israeli and Palestinian civil society.

Ireland is concerned by the ongoing restrictions on civil society space and the treatment of human rights defenders in **Bahrain**. We call on **Bahrain** to respect freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to a fair trial.

We are extremely concerned about the situation in **South Sudan**, and condemn the atrocities being committed against civilians, some of which amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity

Ireland reaffirms our strong and unequivocal opposition to capital punishment in all circumstances and for all cases and remains deeply concerned by its continued use by States.

Thank you.