



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **46th session of the Human Rights Council**

#### **Interactive dialogue on High Commissioner's report on Sri Lanka**

**24 February 2021**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU. Ireland welcomes the High Commissioner's report and we share her concerns regarding worrying human rights trends in Sri Lanka including a shrinking democratic space, the surveillance and obstruction of civil society and the militarization of civilian government functions.

Less than two years ago, there was a global outpouring of support and sympathy for Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the Easter Sunday attacks. We deeply regret that the High Commissioner's recent findings do not identify a renewed spirit of reconciliation and accountability in response to these terrible attacks but, on the contrary, it finds that minorities are being increasingly marginalized and excluded, including in statements by Sri Lanka's leadership about their national vision and Government policy.

We have noted the responses of the Sri Lankan authorities to this report. We urge the authorities to re-engage and cooperate fully with this Council and the OHCHR in the interests of protecting the human rights of all in Sri Lanka.

We also call on Sri Lanka to promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of human rights violations and abuses, ensure those responsible are prosecuted and provide adequate remedy to victims.

High Commissioner,

*What priority actions should be taken to support a safe and enabling environment for civil society in Sri Lanka?*