



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia

13 September 2021

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the High Commissioner for her update.

We remain extremely concerned by the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Tigray, and in the Amhara and Afar regions. We are shocked by the horrifying reports of gross human rights violations and abuses that continue to define this conflict. They include widespread and systematic sexual and gender based violence. This is completely unacceptable and must end.

People will continue to die unless unimpeded humanitarian access is provided immediately to all in need, in accordance with international humanitarian law. We call on all parties to end the ongoing violence now, commit to a lasting ceasefire and enter a process of inclusive political dialogue. All parties should also refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and dehumanizing language, which continues to fuel tensions.

Those responsible for violations of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law must be held to account through independent, transparent and credible processes.

We strongly support the work of the OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission in jointly investigating allegations of human rights violations in Tigray. Timely publication of the investigation findings will be a critical step towards accountability. Continued international attention will be essential to ending the conflict and ensuring its victims are not forgotten.

High Commissioner – How can the international community best support efforts to ensure accountability for human rights violations in Tigray, and in neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions?

Thank you.