



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

23 September 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU, and thanks the Commission for its update and for its continued efforts in documenting the human rights situation in South Sudan.

We remain deeply concerned by the dire humanitarian and human rights situation in South Sudan. We are disturbed by the increased levels of sub-national violence and displacement, particularly around Tambura, where it is believed that the majority of those killed recently were women and children.

Ireland is also concerned by the alarming levels of food insecurity, often driven by conflict, and ongoing attacks on humanitarian workers.

The endemic levels of sexual and gender-based violence in the country are unacceptable and must end. In this regard, Ireland welcomes the launch of the Joint Action Plan for the Armed Forces on addressing conflict related sexual violence.

Protection of civilians is central to the peace agreement and must be a priority for the government. Ireland calls for a renewed commitment from the government to fully implement the peace agreement, including ensuring that the quota for women's participation is met across the institutions and that this participation is full, equal and meaningful.

We also emphasize the need for a vibrant and protected civil society space to be in place before elections can be held.

Members of the Commission, we are concerned that progress towards the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, including the Hybrid Court, seems to have once again completely stalled – how can the international community best support progress on this critical issue?

Thank you.