



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Somalia

Wednesday, 6 October 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Independent Expert for this sobering report.

While Ireland welcomes the collaborative development of human rights benchmarks and indicators, we note that progress has stalled, particularly due to the political stalemate. The holding of timely and inclusive elections critically depends on the freedom of expression, association, and assembly. The targeting of journalists and human rights defenders, and the pervasive “culture of self-censorship” which has developed, undermines this goal.

As Somalia continues to plan for its security transition, we emphasise the importance of establishing and operationalising national human rights mechanisms. In particular, Ireland calls on Somalia to prioritise the appointment of commissioners to an independent and adequately resourced National Human Rights Commission as mandated by law in 2016.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by rising levels of sexual and gender based violence, which disproportionally affects women and girls. We urge that the necessary and complementary measures to prevent sexual violence are taken, and that the 30 per cent quota for women’s political representation in the upcoming elections is secured.

As the international community considers how best to support the Somali security transition, what are the priority areas of consideration in terms of human rights and the operation of the national and international security sector?

Thank you.