



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **49th session of the Human Rights Council**

#### *Interactive Dialogue on OHCHR report on Belarus*

**17 March 2022**

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the High Commissioner and members of the examination team for this comprehensive report.

Ireland condemns the flagrant human rights violations committed by the Belarus authorities. Since the pre-election period of 2020 we have witnessed a brutal repression intended to stifle dissent across Belarusian society, including civil society and the media.

We are gravely concerned by your report's findings of widespread and systematic arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment and sexual and gender-based violence deployed as part of an official policy.

We commend the work of your Office and the examination team to ensure that these violations and potential crimes are documented. This will be essential for accountability for violations against people in Belarus and those forced into exile.

The role of Belarus in Russia's aggression against Ukraine is further evidence of its disrespect for international human rights law and the principles of the UN Charter. People in Belarus continue to raise their voices for peace and the rule of law. It is vital that Belarus and Russia heed their calls.

As repression persists, what role do you see your offices and the examination team providing in relation to prevention and accountability?