

[check against delivery]



Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Human Rights in Eritrea

Monday, 6 March

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks all speakers for their updates.

Ireland is concerned by the continued practice of arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as enforced disappearances. While welcoming the release of some detainees, we urge Eritrea to immediately and unconditionally release all those who continue to be arbitrarily detained—some for decades—including religious leaders, human rights defenders, political figures, and forcefully returned refugees.

We remind Eritrea of its human rights obligations in relation to military service, and call on Eritrea to refrain from using collective punishment against family members to punish or coerce those who absconded military service.

While we note the commencement of a new framework for sustainable development cooperation between Eritrea and the UN: we appeal to Eritrea to build on this engagement on strengthening social and economic rights, and enhance engagement with UN human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur.

Finally, we emphasise the need for investigation into alleged violations of international law committed by Eritrean armed forces – and other parties to the conflict – in Northern Tigray, committed against Ethiopian and Eritrean civilians, including refugees.

Panellists how can the international community and Member States support Eritrean human rights defenders and civil society organisations in their valuable work promoting human rights?

Thank you.