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Statement of Ireland

54th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela

25 September 2023

Thank you Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Fact-Finding Mission for its update.

We are deeply concerned by the findings of violations of international human rights law and the perpetration of human rights abuses against human rights defenders, journalists and media workers, civil society, trade unionists, and minorities, including LGBTI+ persons and Indigenous Peoples.

The finding that sexual and gender-based violence continues to be used as a form of torture and humiliation against opponents to the Government, is particularly deplorable.

Ireland is deeply concerned by the ongoing stigmatisation and criminalisation of civil society actors. We call for the urgent restoration of civic space, and for civil society organisations to be enabled to operate freely in Venezuela, free from threat of reprisals.

We also remain concerned by the continued censorship and repression of the political opposition, particularly the political disqualification of opposition candidates ahead of scheduled elections, and we reiterate our call for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

Ireland echoes the calls of the Fact Finding Mission for an end to impunity in Venezuela and for full accountability. We urge the Venezuelan authorities to grant full access to the FFM and other relevant bodies.

What steps can the international community take to support the holding of free and fair elections in Venezuela?