



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **48th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan*

**Wednesday, 6 October 2021**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for its report.

Ireland welcomes Sudan's constructive cooperation with the High Commissioner, and for progress in adopting reforms aimed at enhancing protection of human rights. It is vital that these developments now translate into meaningful change on the ground.

Ireland remains deeply concerned about protection of civilians particularly in Darfur and Southern Kordofan. We urge redoubled efforts to implement the National Plan for Protection of Civilians, alongside the security and transitional justice pillars of the Juba Peace Agreement. Security sector reform is central to this.

We are alarmed by the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence. The implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security is vital, alongside law reform to ensure prevention of, and accountability for, sexual and gender based violence.

Ireland is also concerned by disquieting developments with regard to civic space, including the persistence of practices which curtail the rights to freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly and participation. These developments from the violent repression and torture of protestors, to the prosecution of media commentators and artists poses a fundamental threat to the democratic transition.

*What can you tell us about efforts to address impunity for grave violations at national level, including investigations into the events of June 2019 in Khartoum?*