



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea (Oral Update)

4 March

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for bringing these important issues to the Council's attention.

The situation in Eritrea remains dire; we are deeply concerned by ongoing human rights violations, including indefinite military conscription, arbitrary arrest and detention, and inhumane prison conditions, which must be urgently addressed. We urge the Government of Eritrea to immediately and unconditionally release those arbitrarily detained, including human rights defenders and refugees. We appeal to the Government of Eritrea to engage with human rights mechanisms and undertake tangible reforms.

Ireland remains gravely concerned by the role Eritrea plays in the wider region, particularly in the conflict in Ethiopia. We condemn the serious violations of international human rights law, including extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances, and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as violations of international humanitarian law and international refugee law committed by all parties to the conflict, including by Eritrean government forces as outlined in the OHCHR and Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) joint investigation report. Perpetrators must be brought to justice, and we urge the Government of Eritrea to commit to credible investigations and redress for victims.

Special Rapporteur, what more can the international community do to encourage Eritrea to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, including your mandate?