



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **51<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

*The Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan*

**[Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September]**

Mr President,

More than a year has passed since the fall of Kabul and, in that time, incredible brutality has been imposed on the country by the Taliban – women's and girls' human rights and fundamental freedoms have been rolled back, with severe restrictions on movement, education, dress, and employment.

The exclusion of girls from secondary education is a gross breach of their human rights and will condemn Afghanistan to unnecessary economic and social hardships. This will further roll back progress on ending child marriage, as well as heightening other risks faced by girls, including sexual and gender-based violence. We call on the Taliban to uphold the rights of women and girls, and to make secondary education available and accessible to every child.

Ireland stands in full solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan and will continue to defend their rights and amplify their voices.

*Mr. Special Rapporteur, last month your mandate with other Special Procedures mandates called on the international community to support the women and girls of Afghanistan in designing and implementing a strategy to promote their fundamental rights, what steps can the international community to support such work?*