



## **Statement of Ireland**

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

#### *Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories*

**30 September 2022**

*Mr President,*

The human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory remains a matter of serious concern.

The deteriorating situation we have seen in recent days in the oPt is alarming. The increase in violence and incursions into the occupied West Bank by Israeli Security Forces is deeply worrying, and has resulted in a high number of casualties, including among civilians. The protection of civilians is of paramount importance and is required under international law. Accountability must be ensured for all attacks affecting civilians.

Ireland urges Israel to halt illegal settlement activity, which undermines the viability of a two-State solution and is illegal under international law. The continued expansion of illegal settlements is deeply concerning.

We are concerned by the escalation in violence in and around Gaza in August, which has had a severe impact on Palestinian civilians, and exacerbated an already difficult humanitarian situation.

We condemn in the strongest terms the execution by Hamas of five prisoners on 4 September.

Ireland remains concerned about continued pressure on Israeli and Palestinian human rights defenders and civil society organisations. The recent raids on the offices of NGOs designated by the Israeli authorities as terrorist organisations is deeply concerning, and forms part of a

worrying trend in the ongoing shrinking of civil society space in the occupied Palestinian territory.

We again condemn the killing of journalists Shireen Abu Akleh. The work of journalists is key to ensuring accountability.

Ireland reiterates our support for the work of the UN Human Rights Office in the oPt and we urge the Israeli authorities to fully cooperate with OHCHR including by ensuring access of staff.

Thank you.