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## **Statement of Ireland**

### **54<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

*ID with the Commission of Inquiry on Syria*

**21 September 2023**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Commissioners for their update.

Ireland remains troubled by the humanitarian and human rights situation in Syria and takes note of your findings that violations of international human rights and humanitarian law have continued in Syria. We are also concerned by the Commission's assessment that fighting has resumed among parties to the conflict.

We note with regret the multiple reports of aid obstruction and interference in aid delivery in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, which the Commission found violated international humanitarian law. These reports render the Security Council's failure to renew the UN cross border mechanism all the more disturbing. Ireland echoes the Commission's call for all aid delivery to be based on transparent and impartial humanitarian assessments, and for humanitarian access authorisations not to be politicised.

Ireland is also concerned by the continued danger and risks that returning refugees face, including arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearance and death. We echo the calls of the Commission of Inquiry for an investigation into alleged violations and abuses, and for perpetrators to be held accountable.

Ireland also aligns with the Commission in expressing our support for the newly-created Independent Institution on Missing Persons in Syria.

*Members of the Commission: how can the international community protect refugees returning to Syria against violations by the Syrian Government?*