



**Statement of Ireland**  
**42nd session of the Human Rights Council**

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Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

**16 September 2019**

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and adds the following.

Ireland would like to thank the Commission for the update today and for the continued efforts in documenting the human rights situation in South Sudan.

This month marks a year since the signing of the revitalised peace agreement. While much remains to be done, Ireland welcome the steps that have been taken since – in particular, the recent efforts being made to work towards the establishment of the transitional government.

Despite the progress in some areas, we remain deeply concerned by the reports of continued violations and abuses of human rights.

Ireland condemns the sexual and gender-based crimes and conflict-related sexual violence that continue with impunity. Ireland is also extremely concerned by the shrinking space for civic engagement. Moreover, despite improvements in access, the humanitarian crisis continues to represent a major challenge with the living conditions for internally displaced persons deteriorating and food insecurity widespread across the country.

Sustainable peace requires an approach that is inclusive and in which perpetrators of crimes are held to account. In this respect, we call again on all parties to prioritise the full establishment of the transitional justice and accountability mechanisms contained within the peace agreement and to ensure that impunity for human rights violations and abuses, including against women and girls, is brought to an end.

*Members of the Commission, could you elaborate on what can be done to ensure that the voices of victims and survivors are empowered in the establishment of the transitional justice and accountability mechanisms?*

Thank you.