



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **50th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights in Eritrea*

**13 June 2022**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

The situation of human rights in Eritrea continues to be of great concern. We are deeply troubled by the widespread impunity for past and ongoing human rights violations; arbitrary arrests and incommunicado detention, enforced disappearances; sexual violence against women and girls; forced labour; and restrictions on the media and civic space.

Ireland is concerned by the efforts of the Eritrean Government to control the activities of the Eritrean diaspora, many of whom have sought refuge abroad due to the dire human rights situation. We condemn the use of intimidation and reprisals against members of the diaspora, as well as their families.

Ireland calls on the Government of Eritrea to immediately release all those unlawfully and arbitrarily detained and end its cruel policy of indefinite military conscription, including of children and the elderly.

We also again call for the total withdrawal of Eritrean armed forces from northern Ethiopia and emphasise the need for accountability for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by Eritrean troops.

As a member of this Council we call on the Government of Eritrea to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights by urgently engaging with human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur, and undertake tangible reforms.

*Special Rapporteur, how can the international community and Member States support Eritrean human rights defenders and civil society organisations in their invaluable work promoting human rights?*

Thank you.