Check against delivery

Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the independent international fact-finding mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

19 September 2024

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Fact-Finding Mission for its report.

The 28th of July should have been an opportunity for the people of Venezuela to have their voices heard and heeded. Instead, the aftermath of the elections has seen a deepening of the political crisis, intensified attacks on opposition leaders and a refusal to allow for independent verification of the election results.

Ireland shares the deep concern of the Fact-Finding Mission regarding reported human rights abuses and violations, including the excessive use of force, in some instances with lethal consequences, during protests. We call for the thorough, prompt and impartial investigation of the reported deaths of protestors.

We note with concern the Mission's findings regarding the arbitrary detention of over 1,200 persons, including leaders and supporters of political parties, journalists, human rights defenders, children and adolescents.

The harassment and repression must end and all political prisoners must be immediately and unconditionally released.

Human rights violations and abuses must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible held accountable.

Ireland will continue to support efforts to facilitate a Venezuelan-led dialogue to restore democracy. We will continue to support UN partners responding to the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Venezuela as well as the millions of Venezuelan migrants and refugees across the region displaced by this crisis.

Madam Chair, What steps can the international community take to support the victims of the repression that has unfolded since the Presidential elections?