

## **Human Rights Council 29th Session**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the UN's Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic**

**1 July 2015**

#### **Statement by Ireland**

Ireland welcomes the Independent Expert, Ms Keita Bocoum, and thanks her for her presentation to the Council today.

Ireland remains gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the Central African Republic. The entire population continues to be affected by the crisis. Ireland condemns continued reports of summary executions of civilians, gender-based violence against women and the continued exploitation of children including the forced recruitment of children by armed groups.

Ireland welcomes the outcomes of the recent Bangui National Forum on Peace & Reconciliation, which brought together all stakeholders in the political transition process. The Agreement on the principles for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration which was signed at the Forum, as well as an Agreement by which armed groups made a commitment to end the recruitment of child soldiers and liberate all children associated with the conflict from their ranks, must now be implemented. Ireland notes that subsequent to the Forum more than 300 children were released by anti-Balaka and the ex-Seleka armed groups.

Ireland acknowledges this and other positive steps taken by the transitional authorities, for example the decision of the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court to open an investigation into alleged atrocities in CAR since 1 August 2012. A credible and impartial investigation of human rights abuses and prosecution of those responsible for such crimes are essential. Tackling immunity plays a fundamental role in breaking the cycle of violence and restoring the rule of law.

In 2014, Ireland provided almost €6 million in funding to support efforts by the UN and civil society to provide the most vulnerable population with food, water, shelter, healthcare and education. We fully support the Independent Expert's call to the international community to redouble its efforts to help the country to fully realise its transition to peace, national reconciliation, reconstruction and the end of impunity.

We would be grateful if the Independent Expert could give her views on the progress to date of implementing the agreements signed at the Bangui National Forum.

We would appreciate if the Independent Expert could advise on the progress in reintegrating children previously used by armed groups.