

Human Rights Council – 26th Session
(10 – 27 June 2014)
General Debate Item 10
Ireland Statement
25 June 2014

Mr President

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

The human rights infrastructure of the United Nations is a system, but it is also a process. Technical cooperation is an important illustration of this latter dimension. It is a means by which concrete improvements in the protection and promotion of human rights in all of our countries can be achieved. It is in this light that Ireland attaches great importance to the work of the Office of the High Commissioner in this area.

Ireland read with interest the report of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for technical cooperation in the field of human rights. We share the view that unearmarked contributions to the Office are the most appropriate manner to respect the independence of the Office and an important way to equip it to fulfill its mandate.

Mr President

Ireland welcomes the report of the independent expert on human rights in Cote d'Ivoire. We urge the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to continue its efforts to fight impunity in cooperation with the UN human rights machinery. We welcome the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire's adoption earlier this month of a law on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders. This is an important recognition of the key role played by human rights defenders in the country.

Mr President

Ireland is deeply troubled by continued deterioration of the human rights situation in South Sudan. We note the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on technical assistance and capacity building for South Sudan issued on Monday which referenced the UNMISS report of 8 May 2014. As the appalling human cost of the conflict continues to multiply, we call for full implementation of the ceasefire agreement. We urge this Council to adopt a resolution which reflects the gravity of the human

rights challenges facing South Sudan. We also take this opportunity to reiterate our call to ensure unhindered humanitarian access to the most vulnerable communities in South Sudan.

Humanitarian access and respect for international humanitarian law in the Central African Republic is also a source of grave concern. The report of the independent expert on human rights in the Central African report paints a bleak picture. Ireland is deeply concerned at recent attacks on humanitarian personnel as they seek to deliver lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable populations. It is vital that all parties respect International humanitarian law; that civilians are protected; and that humanitarian access is provided for UN agencies and NGOs working in CAR and neighbouring countries.

Thank you Mr President