

**Human Rights Council – 26<sup>th</sup> session (10-26 June 2014)**

**Interactive dialogue with the independent international Commission of Inquiry  
on the Syrian Arab Republic**

**Statement by Ireland**

**17 June 2014**

Ireland welcomes the members of the Commission of Inquiry and thanks the Commission for its oral update provided today. Ireland expresses its full support for the statement of the European Union and wishes to make some additional remarks. The members of the Commission and their staff play a key role in recording the unspeakable violations of human rights and dignity which this appalling conflict has inflicted upon the Syrian people. There can be no sustainable peace if those who commit these crimes enjoy impunity. Peace must be based on justice and accountability, and the role of the Commission in chronicling the conflict and its attendant horrific consequences is central to the cause of truth and peace for Syria.

The reports by the Commission of Inquiry make very clear that the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic is critical and worsening, just as are the humanitarian and security situations. The reports set out starkly the ever-rising scale of violence and displacement, death and injury, suffering and hunger being experienced by the Syrian people.

The list of violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law contained in the Commission's reports marks the ever-worsening climate in Syria. As former Joint Special Representative Brahimi has said, no outright military solution to the conflict is possible, and only a negotiated political solution which respects the wishes of all Syrians can bring it to an end. The recent parody of a Presidential election is a deliberate attempt to thwart a peaceful negotiated outcome. It is vital that all sides should return to the principles of the June 2012 Geneva Communiqué, in order to alleviate the appalling suffering of the Syrian people through sincere and meaningful negotiations to end this conflict. The future viability of Syria, the stability of the region and the suffering of the victims demands nothing less.

In conclusion, I would like to ask the members of the Commission of Inquiry the following questions:

- *What steps should be taken to support or promote the implementation of UNSC resolution 2139?*
- *What international mechanisms for accountability should be pursued for the prosecution of crimes committed in this conflict?*