



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

18th March

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Commission of Inquiry for its report.

Ireland is gravely concerned by the Commission's reports of attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. We condemn all attacks on civilians in the strongest terms, particularly the unconscionable attacks on children and first responders. Ireland stresses the need for accountability for human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated during the conflict.

Ireland is gravely concerned by the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria, and that needs are at their highest level since the conflict began. We emphasise the importance of ensuring humanitarian access to all people in need. We call on all parties to immediately remove all impediments to operations and cease attacks on aid routes.

Ireland calls on the government of Syria and all parties involved in the arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance of individuals to release information on the fate of the detained to families.

We reiterate our support for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism and renew our call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

Members of the Commission: what measures can the international community take to ensure there is accountability for attacks on civilians?