

**General Debate on Item 10 and SG/OHCHR Country Reports under Items  
2 & 10**

**Wednesday, 24 September 2014, Geneva**

**Statement by Ireland**

Mr. President,

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

Ireland reiterates its strong and continued support to the Office of the High Commissioner in the areas of technical cooperation and capacity building. These programmes play a crucial role in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in all our countries. We commend the OHCHR for its multifaceted approach, as well as its engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, which can facilitate constructive dialogue and yield tangible results. We welcome, in particular, the High Commissioner's report on technical assistance and capacity-building options for integrating human rights into national policies.

Mr. President,

Turning to specific country situations,

Ireland welcomes some positive developments in **Yemen**, in particular the successful efforts of UN Special Envoy Jamal Benomar which have concluded in the signature by the parties of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement, and the conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference, which has set out a new and inclusive political framework for Yemen. We call on all parties to abide by the Agreement and to end all hostilities and call for the restitution of national institutions to the Yemeni authorities under President Abd Rabbo Mansour Radi. We also express serious concern, *inter alia*, about the continued use of the death penalty and the very wide range of offences under which it can be imposed and the recruitment of children into the Yemeni Armed Forces and armed groups.

We welcome the positive measures **Sri Lanka** has introduced thus far which have contributed to the process of reconciliation on the island. However, we call on Sri Lanka to constructively cooperate with the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka. This cooperation entails allowing the team to collect and document victims' testimonies and the accounts of survivors, witnesses and alleged perpetrators. No one should be subjected to intimidation or reprisals for

cooperating with this investigation. In this regard, we recall this Council's Resolution 24/24 which urges states to prevent and refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisals against those who seek to cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, or who have provided testimony or information to them.

Ireland appreciates the efforts of the government of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** to advance human rights in concert with OHCHR. However, in spite of these positive efforts, we continue to be seriously concerned about the human rights situation in the country, especially the high levels of impunity for the perpetrators of sexual violence.

Finally, we remain gravely concerned at the situation in **Iraq**, particularly the plight of the most vulnerable, especially women, children and minority groups. Since this Council's Special Session three weeks ago, the violence and destruction by so-called ISIL has continued almost unabated. We look forward to the presentation of a comprehensive report at the next Council session, following the urgent dispatch of a mission to Iraq.