

**39th session of the UN Human Rights Council
ID with CoI on the Syrian Arab Republic**

17th September 2018

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr President,

Ireland thanks the members of the Commission for their report.

The report highlights the devastating impact this conflict continues to have on innocent Syrian civilians. Ireland condemns in the strongest terms the deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, including chemical attacks; the denial of humanitarian aid; and the appropriation of the property of displaced persons.

Ireland condemns the forced displacement of more than one million people within Syria over the past six months. The failure of the warring parties to take precautions to protect civilian life, as required under international humanitarian law, has had horrific consequences. Ireland supports the Commission's recommendation that the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement should be adhered to by all parties.

Given the callous indifference to the safety and needs of civilians which we have seen so far this year, Ireland is extremely concerned about the consequences should there be a major offensive on Idlib. We call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and respect of the so-called de-escalation area.

We repeat our call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court, and we take this opportunity to reiterate our support for the excellent work of the Commission of Inquiry and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism.

Ireland also reiterates its support for the UN-led Geneva talks process, based on the 2012 Geneva communiqué and UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

Thank you.