

**Human Rights Council – 30<sup>th</sup> session (14 September – 2 October 2015)**

**General debate on Item 2, annual report of the High Commissioner and reports of the OHCHR and the Secretary-General, & item 10, technical assistance and capacity building**

**Statement by Ireland**

**1 October 2015**

Ireland would like to add some remarks to those already made on our behalf in the statement of the European Union.

We reiterate our strong and continued support to the Office of the High Commissioner in the areas of technical cooperation and capacity building. The work of the Office in this area plays a crucial role in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in all our countries. We commend the Office for its multifaceted approach, as well as its engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, which can facilitate constructive dialogue and yield tangible results.

My delegation is happy to take this opportunity to comment on some issues covered in oral updates and reports submitted to the Council under Agenda Item 10 at this session, which are not the subject of separate interactive dialogues. We note with regret that several of the reports under this agenda item, and indeed others, were made available very late, including during this, the last week of the Council's session.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Office for the summary report on the panel discussion on national policies and human rights, held at the Council's 28<sup>th</sup> session earlier this year. The interesting and very useful discussion highlighted the complementary and mutually reinforcing roles which civil society, national human rights institutions, business and media organisations can play in contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level.

The High Commissioner's report on the situation of human rights in **Yemen** shows a marked deterioration since the last report. We are gravely concerned at the situation of the civilian population, who always suffer the most during armed conflict, and at reports of indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, use of cluster munitions, and denial of access to medical care. We urge all actors to comply strictly with their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as relevant, and hope that all violations and abuses will be thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice.

We express our appreciation for the detailed report on **Iraq**, and our revulsion at the barbarous treatment of civilians, especially members of national and religious minorities, and in particular women and girls, by the so-called ISIL, including their being subjected to harrowing acts of sexual and physical violence and to sexual slavery. We urge the Iraqi authorities to ensure that all actions taken to counter terrorism, whether by the Iraqi Security Forces or affiliated militias, are carried out with strict respect for human rights.

Allow me to conclude by thanking the High Commissioner and his staff, at headquarters and in the field, for the dedication and commitment shown in their vital work to advance the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world.