

**Human Rights Council – 27<sup>th</sup> session**  
**Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry**  
**on the Syrian Arab Republic**  
**Statement by Ireland**  
**16 September 2014**

Ireland thanks the members of the Commission of Inquiry and their staff for their dedication and bravery in fulfilling their mandate from this Council. Ireland also wishes to support the comments made by the European Union today, and to make some additional comments.

The atrocities reported by the Commission are a chilling record of the barbaric inhumanity perpetrated upon the people of Syria since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict. The figures which have been reported, of 200,000 deaths and 3 million refugees, are clear testimony to the destruction of Syria.

The Commission's role in bearing witness to these crimes, which have been committed by members of all armed groups, including regime forces and militias as well as opposition groups, is an essential instrument in the pursuit of accountability and justice, without which no sustainable peace can be established.

Ireland, together with many international partners, has called on the Security Council to refer the Syrian conflict to the International Criminal Court. The continued and routine violations of the fundamental rights of the Syrian people, as contained in the Commission's latest report, are an affront to humanity and undermine the obligations of the UN and the international community to uphold international humanitarian law.

Ireland welcomes the recent appointment of Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura, and calls on all States to support his work in seeking to renew negotiations based on the principles of the June 2012 Geneva communiqué, which remains the only viable means for ending the conflict in Syria. The rise of fundamentalist terrorism, which poses a grave risk to the people of the Middle East and to the stability of the region, illustrates all too clearly the urgency of bringing this appalling conflict to a close.

I wish to conclude by reiterating Ireland's full support for the work of the Commission of Inquiry. Its efforts and reports are integral to the pursuit of justice and accountability in Syria. The Syrian people and the international community depend on the integrity of the Commission and we thank you for your work.