



Statement of Ireland
41st session of the Human Rights Council

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

2 July 2019

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and adds the following.

Mr (Vice) President,

Ireland thanks the members of the Commission for their oral update.

Ireland remains deeply concerned about the plight of the Syrian people and we are particularly worried by the worsening humanitarian situation in the north-west of the country. Ireland condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent attacks on schools, medical facilities and other civilian infrastructure in this region, in contravention of international humanitarian law. The failure of the parties to the conflict to take precautions to protect civilians, as required under international humanitarian law, has had horrendous consequences.

Ireland continues to call on all parties to uphold their ceasefire commitments, and cease military activities in Syria. We also continue to urge all those with influence on the Syrian regime to exert pressure to ensure that civilians are protected, and to encourage the Syrian Government to engage fully with the UN-led peace process.

Ireland notes with grave concern the growing number of internally displaced people within Syria, and calls on all parties in Syria to ensure full humanitarian access to all Syrians in need. With regard to Syrian refugees in the region and beyond, Ireland supports the return of those Syrian refugees who wish to go home, but all returns must be voluntary, and only when the conditions for a safe and dignified return have been met.

Those responsible for the human rights abuses and violation of international humanitarian law in Syria must be held accountable. We reiterate our call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal court. We also take this opportunity to reiterate our support for the work of the Commission of Inquiry and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes in Syria.

Finally, Ireland reiterates its support for the work of UN Special Envoy Geir Pedersen, and his efforts to bring about a genuine, inclusive and comprehensive political solution in Syria, based on UN Security Council resolution 2254.

Thank you.