

Human Rights Council – 28th session (2-27 March 2015)

Statement by Ireland at the General Debate under Item 10

25 March 2015

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union by the Permanent Representative of Latvia. We were also party to the statement delivered by Canada on Ukraine

Ireland wishes to express its strong support for the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on technical assistance and capacity building to promote inclusive and participatory development and poverty reduction.

While Ireland fully supports a national reconciliation process in **Afghanistan**, we also believe that we must guard against the Taliban returning to previous unacceptable practices. Ireland was encouraged to see Afghan women participate in large numbers, both as voters and candidates in last year's elections. However, Ireland remains very concerned about the situation of Afghan women, a concern echoed in the report of the High Commissioner, in which it is made clear that pervasive, often unreported, violence against women and girls persists. We urge the Afghan authorities to take steps urgently to fully vindicate and protect the human rights of women and girls, and to ensure the equal participation of women both in the peace process and within the new Government of National Unity.

Ireland welcomes the actions taken by **Guinea** to ensure better promotion and protection of human rights and commends the efforts of the Guinean authorities to stop the spread of the Ebola virus. We are concerned, however, about reports of violence linked to the Ebola response, as well as stigmatisation of Ebola survivors and we urge the Government of Guinea to ensure that all measures

taken in the context of the fight against the Ebola virus are based on respect for human rights.

We commend the OHCHR for persevering in the provision of technical assistance in **Libya** in exceedingly difficult circumstances. We echo the High Commissioner's call for all parties to end hostilities and, through an inclusive political dialogue, to build a State based on respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Ireland remains extremely concerned by the continuing insecurity and impunity in **South Sudan**. Urgent action to restore law and order is required and we support the efforts of the High Commissioner, UNMISS, the African Union Commission of Inquiry and IGAD in this regard. We also take this opportunity to reiterate our call to the Government of South Sudan and opposition forces to make every effort to achieve peace without further delay.