

**Human Rights Council – 26<sup>th</sup> Special Session**  
**Situation of human rights in South Sudan**

**Statement by Ireland**

**14 December 2016**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and adds the following:

Mr. President,

Ireland is extremely concerned about the deteriorating situation in South Sudan and welcomes the call for this Special Session, as well as the updates provided today. There are alarming reports of escalating violence along ethnic lines demonstrating a pattern of ethnic cleansing and an ever present threat of genocide. We are appalled by reports of grave human rights abuses, including attacks on civilians, schools and hospitals, recruitment of child soldiers, and a dramatic increase in sexual and gender based violence against women and girls, including rape as a weapon of war.

Ireland condemns, in the strongest way, all violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law in South Sudan. We call on all parties to the conflict to immediately end the violence, and on the Government to ensure the protection of its citizens and the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Ireland recognises the important role of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan in monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation, and South Sudan's commitment to cooperate with it. Ireland would welcome recommendations from the Commission on transitional justice mechanisms, processes of accountability and reconciliation, including through the formation of the Hybrid Court, and on ending sexual and gender based violence.

Ireland urges the Government of South Sudan to immediately work with the United Nations, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, and to take all steps to address this crisis and end the violence.

Thank you.