

**Human Rights Council – 25<sup>th</sup> session (3-28 March 2014)**

**Statement by Ireland under agenda item 4 –  
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention  
18 March 2014**

Mr. President,

Ireland welcomes the opportunity to address this important agenda item on human rights situations that require the Council's attention. In addition to this statement, and to the remarks made on our behalf in the European Union statement, our views will be expressed during interactive dialogues under this agenda item on the human rights situations in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, the **Islamic Republic of Iran**, **Myanmar** and the **Syrian Arab Republic**.

Events in **Ukraine** since the last Council session rightly attracted the attention of many of the dignitaries who spoke during the High Level Segment. We welcome the intention of the Ukrainian authorities to investigate cases of human rights violations which occurred during the past several months, and expect that this will be done in an impartial and objective manner, in accordance with international standards. The rights of all citizens in all parts of Ukraine, including Crimea, including persons belonging to minorities, should be fully respected and protected. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine should also be fully respected, and the armed forces of the Russian Federation should be present only in the locations and in the numbers permitted by the relevant bilateral agreements.

Recent violence in **South Sudan** and in the **Central African Republic** has claimed many lives. We call for the thorough investigation of all cases of atrocities and the bringing to justice of the perpetrators. We commend the urgent action taken by the international community in both cases, and underline the need for continued attention in order to ensure accountability for, and non-recurrence of, human rights violations.

We encourage the authorities in **Bahrain** to fully and swiftly implement all the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry Report, so that human rights in Bahrain are respected and protected. Areas deserving of particular attention, in our view, include the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, as well as freedom of opinion and expression, including full respect for the rights of human rights defenders.

We have serious concerns about the recent adoption of legislation in a number of countries, including **Uganda**, **Nigeria** and the **Russian Federation**, that discriminates against LGBTI persons and is likely to have the effect of severely restricting and penalising the exercise of their human rights. Such legislation could also have the effect of stigmatising LGBTI persons and making them the target of intimidation and violent attacks, as well as having a possible negative effect on public health, including efforts to address HIV/AIDS.

Thank you, Mr. President.