



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

*Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in
Central African Republic*

20 March 2019

Mr (Vice President),

Ireland welcomes the presentation of the Independent Expert, Ms. Keita Bocoum, and thanks her for her vital work in monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic.

Ireland recognises the positive steps taken by Government to ensure that civilians effectively enjoy their rights, despite a very challenging context, and welcomes the Political Accord for Peace and Reconciliation signed in Khartoum on 6th February 2019, which rightly sees human rights and access to justice as central to sustaining peace in the country.

Since the signing of the Agreement, we note the Government's efforts to ensure its effective implementation by, inter alia, establishing an inclusive commission to examine all aspects of the conflict and submit proposals to the Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission promised in the Agreement. We believe that the voices of all parts of society must be heard, particularly those of women and children who have been so severely affected by the conflict, for the successful implementation of the Agreement. We urge all parties to include the consideration of human rights norms in all phases of implementation.

Ireland remains gravely concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic where over half the population is in need of ongoing humanitarian support and one in four is internally displaced. Ireland has made a clear commitment to the Central African Republic, with over €24 million provided in humanitarian assistance since 2016 and is the third largest donor to the humanitarian fund.

What are the Independent Expert's views on how human rights concerns can be addressed further in the implementation of the peace agreement, particularly in relation to transitional justice?

Are there any new human rights concerns which may emerge as the country moves towards implementation of the peace agreement?