

**Human Rights Council – 27th session**  
**Statement by Ireland during interactive dialogue with the Independent**  
**Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic**

**24 September 2014**

Ireland thanks the Independent Expert on the situation of Human Rights in the Central African Republic, Ms. Keita Bocoum, for her report and also for her presentation today.

Together with our EU partners, we remain deeply concerned by the continuing violence and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Central African Republic.

Ireland is deeply concerned about the effects of the continuing violence on the social fabric of the country and in particular, on women, children and the disabled. Attacks on health centres and other key locations such as schools have contributed to the instability resulting in hundreds of thousands of refugees and the internal displacement of over half a million people, at least half of whom are children.

The recruitment and use of children by armed groups is an appalling practice and must stop. Ireland continues to call for intensification of negotiations to secure the release of such children and to reintegrate them within their communities when possible.

Ireland is extremely concerned about the impact of the deteriorating security situation on the capacity of humanitarian agencies to assist the most vulnerable communities. We note the increasing frequency of attacks on humanitarian personnel attempting to deliver vital assistance to those most in need. We condemn these attacks in the strongest possible terms. It remains critical that safe and unhindered humanitarian access is provided to UN agencies and civil society organisations working in the Central African Republic.

Ireland welcomes the recent deployment of the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and calls on all parties to support it in carrying out its initial priority tasks, including protection of civilians and supporting extension of state authority as part of the transition process.

Ireland would like to highlight again the need for credible and impartial investigation of human rights abuses and the prosecution of crimes. We continue to call on the international community to assist the transitional

authorities to address weaknesses in the judicial system given its centrality in administering justice and ensuring accountability.

*We would like to ask the Independent Expert for her views on how MINUSCA can most effectively work with the transitional authorities to re-establish the rule of law. We are also keen to hear the views of the Independent Expert on efforts to reintegrate children previously used by armed groups. Is she aware of effective programmes currently in operation and what can the international community do to support the successful reintegration of such children?*