

Human Rights Council – 38th session

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

26th June 2017

National Statement of Ireland

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to add the following.

Mr President,

Ireland wishes to thank the members of the Commission for their oral update today and for the conference papers they have presented in recent months. Their work is vital in shining a light on the horrific human rights abuses that continue to take place in Syria, and an important step towards ensuring that the victims achieve the justice they deserve.

Ireland condemns in the strongest terms the continued and deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, the denial and diversion of humanitarian aid and medical assistance, and the use of starve or surrender tactics that we have repeatedly seen in Syria. The vicious end to the siege of Eastern Ghouta earlier this year highlighted the devastating effects of such tactics.

Ireland also condemns the continued use of prohibited weapons including chemical weapons and cluster munitions, and the practice of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearance, torture and sexual and gender-based violence against detainees. The use of sexual violence and rape as tools to instil fear, torture, humiliate and reprimand is utterly reprehensible.

We repeat our call for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court, and we take this opportunity to reiterate our support for the work of the Commission of Inquiry and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism.

Ireland also reiterates its support for the UN-led Geneva talks process, based on the 2012 Geneva communiqué and UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

Thank you.