



Statement of Ireland

43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 10: High-Level Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic

19 June 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Ireland welcomes the report and presentation of the Independent Expert, Mr. Yao Agbetse, whose work in monitoring and reporting on the evolving situation in the Central African Republic is deeply valued.

Ireland commends the Central African authorities for their cooperation in allowing the Independent Expert and his team full access to a broad range of interlocutors, enabling this important work to be carried out.

Ireland takes note of the progress in implementation of the Peace Agreement signed in Khartoum in February 2019 under the aegis of the African Union, but remains concerned about ongoing reported breaches of the agreement. Thus, Ireland joins the Independent Expert in urging all signatories to work in good faith to implement the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation (DDRR) process nationwide as early as possible.

Ireland welcomes the focus of the present dialogue on preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts. Ireland regrets the reported disruptions to the education system that increase children's vulnerability to human trafficking and recruitment by armed groups, therefore undermining efforts towards peace.

Ireland also remains highly concerned about the humanitarian situation in the country, particularly in relation to internally displaced persons, and calls on the Central African authorities to ensure all returns of such persons are voluntary and conducted in a safe and dignified manner.

Mr. Agbetse, recognizing the importance of holding the upcoming presidential elections within the constitutional timeframe, what additional recommendations would you make to

ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable, in particular women and children, remain protected during the critical period ahead?

Thank you.