

Human Rights Council - 28th session
(2nd March – 27th March 2015)

**Interactive Dialogue with the UN Commission of Inquiry on
Human Rights in Eritrea**

Statement by Ireland

16th March 2015

Thank you Mr. President,

Ireland welcomes the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea and the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. Ireland would like to make the following remarks in addition to those made in the EU intervention on our behalf.

Ireland welcomes Eritrea's accession to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in September 2014. Ireland also welcomes Eritrea's recent decision to reduce the national military service to 18 months. However, Ireland remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Eritrea. We call on Eritrea to implement the recommendations accepted during its Universal Periodic Review in February 2014. We are concerned that the Constitution adopted in 1997 has not yet been implemented and elections have not been held since 1993.

Ireland believes that gender-based violence is a major abuse of human rights, which can have serious impacts on women's health, well-being and livelihoods. We therefore welcome the decision of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate discrimination against women and sexual and gender-based violence, amongst other human rights issues.

Ireland would like to ask the Commission of Inquiry its assessment of the treatment of women and children in national service and in detention in Eritrea.

Ireland would also appreciate the Commission's views around efforts towards the eradication of female genital mutilation in Eritrea.