

**General Debate on Item 10 and SG/OHCHR Country Reports under Items  
2 & 10**

**Wednesday, 24 September 2014, Geneva**

**Statement by Ireland**

Mr. President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Ireland reiterates its strong and continued support to the Office of the High Commissioner in the areas of technical cooperation and capacity building. These programmes play a crucial role in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in all our countries. We commend the OHCHR for its multifaceted approach, as well as its engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, which can facilitate constructive dialogue and yield tangible results. We welcome, in particular, the High Commissioner's report on technical assistance and capacity-building options for integrating human rights into national policies.

We welcome the positive measures **Sri Lanka** has introduced thus far which have contributed to the process of reconciliation on the island. However, we call on Sri Lanka to constructively cooperate with the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka. This cooperation entails allowing the team to collect and document victims' testimonies and the accounts of survivors, witnesses and alleged perpetrators. No one should be subjected to intimidation or reprisals for cooperating with this investigation. In this regard, we recall this Council's Resolution 24/24 which urges states to prevent and refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisals against those who seek to cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, or who have provided testimony or information to them.