

New

Universal Periodic Review working group – 19th session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Côte d'Ivoire

29 April 2014

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland notes the positive steps taken by Côte d'Ivoire since its first review, in particular its ratification of the Rome Statute to the ICC in 2013.

While we welcome the establishment of the National Commission of Inquiry and the recent decision by the President to extend the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Ireland is gravely concerned as to persisting accountability gaps in addressing serious human rights abuses committed during the post-election crisis in 2010, with reports that only persons associated with the former regime have, to date, been held to account. Addressing such questions of impunity and equitable justice are central to national reconciliation. Ireland **recommends** that Côte d'Ivoire ensure an equitable and impartial approach to the administration of justice so that all perpetrators responsible for violent crimes are held to account, irrespective of their political, tribal or religious background.

Ireland also remains concerned at continuing reports of a high prevalence of sexual and gender based violence. Ireland **recommends** that Cote d'Ivoire undertake a comprehensive legal and cultural awareness raising campaign on sexual and gender-based violence including issues such as rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and domestic violence.