

IRELAND

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Human Rights Situations that require the Council's attention
12th Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva
Statement by Ireland

Mr President,

I would like to associate Ireland with the statement made by the Sweden on behalf of the EU. In the limited time available, I would like to highlight some key country situations of particular concern to Ireland at this time.

We remain deeply concerned about the situation in **Burma/Myanmar**. The arrest, trial and conviction of Aung San Suu Kyi represent a travesty of justice, which has been universally condemned. Secretary General Ban in his speech in Yangon in July set out the agenda that the international community is expecting from the Government of Myanmar. Ireland fully endorses this agenda.

The formal war in **Sri Lanka** is, thankfully, over but the peace there remains to be won. Serious breaches of humanitarian and human rights law took place during that war, with atrocities attributable to both sides. We look to President Rajapakse and his government to follow through on the commitments that have been made to work for national reconciliation and peace.

Ireland is concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in **Iran**, including the mass arrests that followed June's Presidential elections and the reported maltreatment of those in detention. We are also disturbed by the continuing ill-treatment of minorities, in particular the members of the Baha'i faith, a number of whom have been detained, without trial, for more than 18 months.

The situation in **Sudan** remains a concern, in particular the ongoing conflict in Darfur and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Southern Sudan. Ireland supports the progress made on the CPA through renewed international efforts and urges the parties involved in the Doha talks on Darfur to redouble their efforts to reach a resolution.

The violence in **Somalia** is of great concern, and illustrates the urgent need to pursue national reconciliation and to build up a functioning security sector. It is vital for the future of **Zimbabwe** that the unity government implements the Global Political Agreement, including the agreed goals of ensuring full implementation of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.