

**Joint statement to the Human Rights Council's 26<sup>th</sup> session  
Under Item 10  
27 June 2014**

Mr President,

The International Service for Human Rights, the Coalition of Human Rights Defenders of Côte d'Ivoire, and the Côte d'Ivoire Coalition for the ICC take this opportunity to congratulate the Independent Expert for all the work he has done since 2011.

Since the establishment of this country mandate a great deal of progress has been made. Among other things: the establishment of a Permanent Consultative Framework (CPC) between the government and the opposition, the renewal of the Special Investigation Unit (CSE) and the Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation (CDVR), the partial lifting of the arms embargo, the release of certain prisoners and the release of their assets, and the establishment of a new National Commission of Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles. In particular, we acknowledge the recent adoption of the Law on the protection of human rights defenders, which we hope will be promulgated promptly and will inspire other African countries to follow suit.

We take this opportunity to thank the government of Côte d'Ivoire for its good cooperation with the Independent Expert, with whom Ivorian civil society had the opportunity to meet several times.

Despite this progress and the improvement in the socio-political situation, many challenges remain. Hence there is a need to enable the Independent Expert to continue the work he has started.

A year and a half before the next elections in 2015, when tensions are highest and reconciliation has only started to take shape, the security situation remains fragile. For this reason the mandate of the Independent Expert should be renewed and strengthened to further assist the country. We hope that in the process of renewing the mandate of the Independent Expert a particular emphasis is placed on aspects of the fight against impunity, equitable justice, support for all victims of the Ivorian crisis, strengthening the rule of law, and monitoring the situation of human rights to ensure that the gains remain unchallenged.

We hope that the current mandate holder who has done a tremendous job will continue his dialogue with the Ivorian government and his partnership with Ivorian civil society so as to contribute to sustainable stability. Also, we urge the United Nations system to continue its assistance to Côte d'Ivoire.

Thank you