



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral report on Ukraine

20 March 2019

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and adds the following.

Mr. President,

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner for her update on the human rights situation in Ukraine and for the important work of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

It is now five years since the conflict in eastern Ukraine began, with no indication that a resolution is in sight. The fragile security situation and the terrible suffering of the civilian population in eastern Ukraine continues to be a matter of deep concern to us, a matter underlined in great detail by the OHCHR's most recent report, which states that more than five million people, including over 1.3 million registered internally displaced persons and persons living in isolated communities along the contact line in eastern Ukraine are bearing the brunt of the conflict.

Monday marked the fifth anniversary of the illegal annexation of the autonomous republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Ireland does not recognise the annexation and remains unwavering in our support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We remain concerned as to the human rights situation in Crimea; the continued denial of regular access for international human rights monitoring bodies including the OHCHR to the Crimean peninsula undermines the protection of human rights.

Ireland fully supports the important work of the Monitoring Mission in documenting human rights violations and abuses. It is imperative that they have full and unhindered access to the entire territory of Ukraine, including eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

Madame High Commissioner,

Ireland is concerned at the difficulties faced by those displaced by the conflict and would welcome your assessment of the current situation of IDPs in Ukraine.

Thank you.