



Statement of Ireland
42nd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 10: Interactive dialogue on regular periodic update on Ukraine

24 September 2019

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

Mr President,

Ireland expresses its sincere thanks for this latest update on the human rights situation in Ukraine and for the important work of the OHCHR and the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. Ireland would also like to express its appreciation to the High Commissioner for her continued valuable updates on the situation in Ukraine.

It is a grave cause of concern for Ireland that during the reporting period, the lives and wellbeing of the civilian population residing in the conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine continue to be severely affected by the ongoing hostilities, in particular the increased casualties from the previous reporting period. We welcome, however, the agreement to repair the damaged bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska, which when finished will help ease crossing conditions for the population.

Ireland is concerned by the report's accounts about the difficulties faced by the conflict-affected population and internally displaced persons in particular, in accessing pension and social benefits. Whilst we welcome the compensation scheme for homes destroyed due to the conflict, we would encourage Ukraine to further address the challenges faced by this sector of the population.

The report continues to highlight violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, including the suppression of freedom of expression and disproportionate targeting of Crimean Tatars. It is crucial that international human rights monitoring missions are granted full and unimpeded access to all of Ukraine, and in particular Eastern Ukraine and the Crimean Peninsula.

Ireland does not recognise the annexation and remains unwavering in our support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Madame High Commissioner, Ireland would be interested in hearing your views on how the repairs to the bridge crossing at Stanitsya Luhanska may impact on the welfare of the citizens on both sides of the contact line.