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Statement of Ireland

54th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4 General Statement

26 September 2023

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

We have previously highlighted our deep concern at the human right situations in **Ethiopia**, **Syria**, **Burundi**, and **Venezuela** in the relevant Interactive Dialogues.

Ireland again condemns Russia's illegal and unjustified full-scale invasion of **Ukraine**. We reiterate our concern at the finding of the Commission of Inquiry that war crimes have been committed, and we continue to call for comprehensive accountability for these crimes.

Ireland is concerned about severely restricted civic space in **Russia**, and condemns the curtailment of fundamental freedoms as well as mass arbitrary arrests, detentions, and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists, and minorities.

We condemn reports of widespread and systematic torture and ill-treatment against individuals for their opposition to the Government in **Belarus** and call for all political prisoners to be released unconditionally and without delay.

We once again emphasise the need for accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law for the people of **Yemen**.

Ireland reiterates our concerns at ongoing restrictions on civic space in **China**, and the treatment of minorities, including Uyghurs and Tibetans. We remain concerned about the impacts of the National Security Law on fundamental freedoms in **Hong Kong**.

In line with the High Commissioner's comments that the findings of the OHCHR's assessment on **Xinjiang** requires strong remedial actions by authorities, we renew our call on China to implement the recommendations of this assessment.

Ireland is deeply concerned at the military escalation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and we call for unimpeded humanitarian access and for the rights and security of the Karabakh Armenians to be guaranteed.