



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **48th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's oral update on Ukraine*

**5 October**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and we thank the High Commissioner for her report.

Ireland restates its commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are inherently part of Ukraine, and the occupation by Russia is an illegal violation of Ukrainian sovereignty.

Ireland does not recognise the so-called elections to the Russian Federation State Duma held in the illegally annexed Crimean Peninsula on 17-19 September. Further, we note that the involvement of residents of the non-government controlled territories of Ukraine in those elections runs counter to the Minsk agreements.

We share the concerns raised regarding the human rights situation in Crimea. We are alarmed by allegations of torture and ill-treatment. We are also concerned about reports of violations of the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, arbitrary arrests by the occupying power and impediments to fair trial.

Ireland is particularly concerned by the situation of Crimean Tatars. They, along with other Ukrainians and all ethnic and religious communities in the peninsula, must be allowed to maintain their identities and traditions.

Madame High Commissioner, in your view, what further practical support can the international community provide to help protect human rights in illegally occupied Crimea?

Thank you.