



Statement of Ireland

45th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 10 – ID High Commissioner Oral Update on Ukraine

Thursday, 1 October 2020

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU. Ireland expresses its sincere thanks, for this update and for the important work of both the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the OHCHR. In particular, Ireland commends the work of the OHCHR in remaining operational despite the enormous difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 is further exacerbating the hardships endured by the civilian population, particularly those residing in the conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine. Ireland is particularly concerned for those who have been cut off from their families, jobs, healthcare and pensions, as well as the thousands of people with pressing humanitarian needs who remain unable to cross the contact line. We echo your call for the progressive easing of movement restrictions, until the epidemiological situation allows for the full re-opening of the five crossing points.

Ireland is concerned at the continuing 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, the disregard of fair trial guarantees, and violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief. 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 what additional measures could be taken to lessen the impact of the response to COVID on vulnerable groups in Eastern Ukraine over the coming months?