

## **Human Rights Council 38<sup>th</sup> Session**

### **Interactive Dialogue on regular periodic update on Ukraine**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018**

#### **National Statement of Ireland**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf 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 the valuable updates received on the situation in Ukraine.

We are gravely concerned at the current situation in Crimea. The militarisation of the peninsula continues, while the human rights situation is getting worse. Access for international monitors has not yet been secured, and as a result the civilian population continues to suffer. We are increasingly concerned by the detention of Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko and Mykola Semena. We support the EU's call for all illegally imprisoned Ukrainian citizens in the Crimean peninsula to be released immediately.

If, as Russia claims, there are no human rights violations taking place in Crimea, then this can be quickly determined by allowing international human rights monitoring bodies full and unhindered access to the peninsula.

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

We note with concern that there has been no improvement in the security situation in eastern Ukraine since the last session. The outcome of the recent Normandy Format Foreign Ministers meeting in Berlin gives little cause for optimism. The civilian population, especially those citizens living close to the contact line, continue to suffer greatly as they struggle to go about their normal daily routine. It is clear that many thousands of civilians in eastern Ukraine urgently need humanitarian assistance and protection.

Threats against the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine continue. This is unacceptable and further underlines the need for a secure ceasefire.

Mr. High Commissioner,

Ireland would welcome your assessment of the most urgent steps needed to improve the conditions on the ground, and to promote basic human rights and bring a renewed sense of hope to those most affected.

Thank you.