



Statement of Ireland
49th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: General debate on the High Commissioner's oral update

8 March 2022

Thank you Mr Vice President,

Ireland aligns with the EU statement.

We echo the High Commissioner's affirmation that this Council stands for peace, and for the prevention of human rights violations that create conflict.

States – none more so than the Members of the HRC - have accepted clear obligations to uphold international human rights law.

In the past two weeks, we have borne witness to reckless and devastating violations of human rights in **Ukraine** with civilians being killed and injured every day, and millions fleeing their homes. We again condemn the actions of the **Russian Federation** and repeat the urgent call for an end to this war.

We salute the bravery of citizens in **Russia** speaking out for peace. We are deeply concerned by the arbitrary arrest of thousands of peaceful protestors and increasing restrictions on freedom of the media and access to information.

Mr Vice President,

Ireland has championed **the role of civil society**, and its role in building resilient and stable societies.

We are gravely concerned by shrinking civil society space in many regions. For instance, in **Vietnam** by acts of reprisal against human rights activists. In **Nicaragua**, by the continued arbitrary detention of individuals critical of the government. And we deplore the continued targeting by **Sri Lankan** authorities of civil society groups, which are playing an important role in democratic accountability.

Ireland underlines our unequivocal support for the work of the High Commissioner, and for the independence of the Office she leads.

Thank you