



**Statement of Ireland**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

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Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Annual Report

**14 June 2022**

Thank you Madame Vice-President,

Ireland aligns with the EU statement. We thank the High Commissioner for her report, but also for her principled leadership over the past four years. We underline our unequivocal support for the independence of her role and her office.

We again condemn Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression in Ukraine and support all efforts to ensure accountability. There is clear evidence of appalling human rights violations as a result of Russia's aggression.

We are also concerned by the human rights situation in **Russia**, in particular the restrictions on civil society, and the continued repression of **Belarusian** civil society.

We remain concerned about continued pressure on human rights defenders and civil society in **the occupied Palestinian territory**. We strongly condemn the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh, and echo the calls for an independent, effective and transparent investigation, and for effective accountability for all violations.

We condemn the systematic erosion of the rights of women and girls in **Afghanistan**. **It would appear** that the authorities have no intention of upholding their commitments to the people of Afghanistan and the international community.

Finally, we remain deeply concerned by evidence-based reports of human rights violations and abuses in **China**, and call on **China** to comply with its obligations under international law, particularly in **Xinjiang and Tibet**. We look forward to the release as soon as possible of the High Commissioner report on human rights in Xinjiang.

Thank you