



Statement of Ireland
51st Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: General Debate on the High Commissioner's Oral Update

13 September 2022

Thank you Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and we thank the Acting High Commissioner for her update.

As a champion of civil society space at home and abroad, Ireland welcomes the strong focus of your update on the detrimental impact of shrinking civic space on human rights in many states worldwide, and we call on all States to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society.

Ireland is gravely concerned by ongoing repression of civic space in the **Russian Federation**. Human rights defenders, civil society actors and media workers continue to face human rights violations on a daily basis, particularly those who speak out against Russia's unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine.

We remain deeply concerned about the **Belarusian** authorities' policy of systematically tightening legislation that restricts civil and political rights, and the resulting increased repression of civic space.

We are also concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in **Mali**, in particular alleged human rights violations committed by Malian defence and security forces, supported by foreign private military contractors. We are further concerned by reports of censorship of the media and self-censorship by journalists, media professionals and civil society actors, for fear of reprisals.

We urge **Sudan** to address impunity for human rights violations against peaceful protesters, and encourage a return to a civilian-led government.

Finally, let me congratulate Mr Volker Turk for his appointment as High Commissioner. We take this opportunity to underline our unequivocal support for the Office and for the independence of its activities.

Thank you