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**Statement of Ireland**

**57th session of the Human Rights Council**

*Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Oral Update on Ukraine*

**8 October 2024**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the High Commissioner for his update.

Ireland reiterates our condemnation of Russia's illegal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. The war has resulted in extensive human rights violations, including violations of the rights to life, liberty and security of persons. We remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Ireland is extremely concerned at the High Commissioner's reports of detention, ill-treatment and torture of civilians and Prisoners of War. We are appalled at the unlawful deportation and transfer of civilians, including children, from Ukraine to Russia and Belarus.

It is clear that any peaceful resolution to Russia's full-scale invasion must involve the return of all forcibly transferred persons, including children.

We are greatly alarmed at reports of enforced disappearances of representatives of local authorities, journalists, civil society activists and other civilians by Russian authorities and affiliated groups.

Ireland calls for the immediate release of staff of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine who were arbitrarily detained in Donetsk and Luhansk in April 2022. Their detention is unjust, illegal and unacceptable.

*High Commissioner, how can we advance efforts to return Ukrainian children to their families and communities?*