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Statement of Ireland

57th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine

23 September 2024

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Commission for its update.

Ireland reiterates its condemnation of Russia's illegal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. We are appalled by the devastating consequences that Russia's actions continue to have for the Ukrainian people.

Ireland remains gravely concerned at the significant violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law caused by Russia's war of aggression. We are particularly concerned by the Commission's finding that violations by the Russian armed forces may amount to war crimes. These violations must be investigated and perpetrators held to account.

Since the publication of the Commission's most recent report, Russian attacks on Ukrainian population centres have continued unabated, resulting in numerous civilian deaths and devastating injuries to many others.

The relentless targeting of civilian infrastructure by Russia continues to bring profound, unjustified hardship upon Ukrainians, particularly ahead of winter. Attacks on medical centres and hospitals, such as the 8 July Russian missile strike on Okhmatdyt [ACK-MAT-DEET] children's hospital, are unconscionable and egregious violations of international humanitarian law. These are not the actions of a country interested in peace.

Commissioners, what further steps could the international community take to ensure accountability for crimes committed during the war?