

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner’s Oral Update on Ukraine

19 March 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Deputy High Commissioner for the oral update on the human rights situation in Ukraine – we value the opportunity to discuss these findings.

Australia reiterates our ongoing support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Australia calls on all parties to implement their Minsk 2 obligations. This is the only agreed basis for resolving the crisis, which continues to disrupt the access of civilians to a range of fundamental human rights.

We are gravely concerned at the consistent reports of ongoing human rights abuses in occupied Crimea and eastern Ukraine. We urge the occupying authorities in those areas to respect all peoples’ human rights, and we deplore the reported use of torture, forced disappearances, and sexual violence. Australia is particularly concerned by reported attacks against vulnerable minorities. We would welcome the Deputy High Commissioner’s views on options available to the international community to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for human rights abuses in Ukraine.

Australia supports the OHCHR, and relevant special procedures mandate holders, continuing to report on the situation in Ukraine. We reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to use its influence to facilitate immediate and unimpeded access to Crimea and eastern Ukraine by the OHCHR and other international organisations responsible for reporting on the human rights situation in Ukraine.

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