

## Human Rights Council – 41<sup>st</sup> session

### Interactive Dialogue on the regular periodic update on Ukraine

10 July 2019

#### Australian Statement

Australia supports the OHCHR, and relevant special procedures mandate holders, continuing to report on the situation in Ukraine. We value the updates on the human rights situation in Ukraine and the opportunity to discuss these findings.

We note reporting that as of 15 May 2019, average monthly civilian casualties in 2019 were 50 percent lower than in 2018, and were among the lowest for the entire conflict period. However, we remain concerned that the OHCHR continues to observe an incremental, negative impact of the conflict on people living along both sides of the contact line, as well as throughout the country. Australia once again calls on all parties to comply with the provisions of the Minsk II Agreement as the only agreed basis for resolving the crisis.

Australia reiterates its ongoing support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We are concerned at the consistent reports of ongoing human rights abuses in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. We urge the authorities in those areas to respect all peoples' human rights. We 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.

**206 Words**