

Human Rights Council – 42nd session

Item 10 Interactive Dialogue following the High Commissioner's oral update on Ukraine

24 September 2019

Australian Statement

Australia continues to value the High Commissioner's oral update on the human rights situation in Ukraine and the opportunity to discuss these findings.

We are concerned that the OHCHR continues to observe that the conflict is having a negative impact 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 remain concerned at the consistent reports of ongoing human rights violations and abuses in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. We urge the authorities in those areas to respect all peoples' human rights. We again 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.

As the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights noted in July, and again today, Ukraine's new leadership presents an opportunity to place human rights at the centre of the Government's priorities and public policy. We welcome the recent, peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections and encourage continued efforts to address human rights concerns, including an action plan for the protection of civilians in conflict.