**Human Rights Council – 45th session**

**Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner’s oral update on Ukraine**

**1 October 2020**

**Australian Statement**

Australia values the opportunity to discuss the High Commissioner’s oral update.

Australia strongly supports Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We encourage all parties to the conflict in eastern Ukraine to resolve issues in good faith. We look forward to the next Normandy Format leaders’ summit at a safe time.

We welcome the agreement to enact a comprehensive ceasefire, effective on 27 July. However, we are concerned that one Ukrainian was killed and two others injured after Russia-backed separatists targeted Ukrainian positions on 6 September.

Australia remains concerned by reports of ongoing human rights violations and abuses in occupied Crimea and eastern Ukraine, including that indigenous Crimean Tartars are being sentenced to prison terms by Russian courts for politically motivated reasons. We urge relevant authorities to respect human rights.

We again call on the Russian Federation to facilitate immediate and unimpeded access to Crimea and eastern Ukraine by the OHCHR and other international human rights organisations in order to monitor and report on the situation.

Australia is concerned that Roma and LGBTI people continue to experience unacceptable discrimination and attacks, and we call on Ukraine to uphold its human rights obligations and foster a safe and inclusive society.

**197 Words**