

**Human Rights Council
50th session**

National Statements by Iceland

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Item 2 – Interactive dialogue on the annual report of the High Commissioner | 2 |
| Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner oral update on the situation in Mariupol | 3 |
| Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation | 4 |
| Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on Ukraine and interim report of Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Crimea..... | 5 |

Human Rights Council
50th session
Item 2 – Interactive dialogue on the annual report of the High Commissioner
14 June 2022
Statement by Iceland

Mr. President.

We thank the High Commissioner for her report.

We remain gravely concerned over the situation of human rights in the **Russian Federation**, including erosion of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, systematic crackdown on civil society, political opposition and media, and the use of disinformation contributing to Russia's war against Ukraine. Human rights and fundamental freedoms must be respected, and perpetrators held to account.

In **Belarus**, we are deeply concerned over widespread and systematic violations that have been executed as an official policy, including the recently adopted law on death penalty, and attacks on civil society and widespread use of disinformation. We reiterate our call on Belarus to stop enabling the Russian aggression in Ukraine and to abide by its international obligations.

Mr. President,

We continue to be gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region**. We urge China to allow unfettered access to Xinjiang for independent observers and call for the High Commissioner to release her long-awaited report.

Finally, we condemn the severe regression in the recognition, protection and realization of the rights of women and girls in **Afghanistan**. We call on the Taliban, and all other parties, to live up to their promises, and to their obligations under international law.

I thank you.

Human Rights Council
50th session
Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner oral update on the situation in Mariupol
16 June 2022
Statement by Iceland

Mr. President,

Iceland thanks the High Commissioner for her briefing on the devastating situation in Mariupol. What we have heard today has unfortunately become a common thread in Russia's brutal aggression against Ukraine.

Mr. President,

The reports of the atrocities committed by the Russian military in Ukraine are shocking. Blatant disregard for human lives is a signature of Russia's warfare for the past months.

The Russian military continues to flagrantly violate the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, by way of executions, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary detentions, enforced displacements and shelling of hospitals and schools. This is something we have unfortunately seen in multiple cities across Ukraine, including Mariupol and Bucha.

Mr. President,

We must continue to collectively fight against impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Those responsible for committing those atrocities against civilians must be brought to justice.

Iceland fully supports the Commission of Inquiry and other initiatives to this end, including the investigation of the ICC. Iceland also commends the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and other States in their joint efforts along with the ICC to facilitate investigations and prosecutions in the concerned states as well as those that could be taken forward before the ICC.

I thank you.

Human Rights Council
50th session
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation
of human rights in Belarus
29 June 2022
Statement by Iceland

Iceland thanks the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus for her report, an important update on an ever-worsening human rights situation that we must not lose sight of.

Belarus' involvement in the war against Ukraine exacerbates the situation in Belarus and creates additional concerns. Civil society remains under attack and the widespread use of disinformation is alarming and must stop.

We are deeply concerned by widespread and systematic violations and abuses that have been executed as an official policy, as well as recent constitutional and other legislative changes that restrict fundamental freedoms even further, including the recently adopted law on death penalty.

Iceland strongly supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. The Rapporteur's work is vital to gain insight into the human rights violations and abuses taking place every day in Belarus with the collection of information showing persecution of political opponents of the regime, arbitrary arrests, and harassment of human rights defenders.

Iceland condemns the systematic human rights violations and abuses of the Belarusian regime and calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners. We call on Belarus to adhere to its international commitments and obligations under human rights law.

We stand firmly with the Belarusian people in their fight for a free and democratic society.
Thank you.

Human Rights Council

50th session

Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on Ukraine and interim report of Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Crimea

5 July 2022

Statement by Iceland

Thank you, Mr. President.

We thank the High Commissioner for the update and welcome the report.

It has been more than four months now since Russia launched its brutal war against Ukraine, which has caused widespread destruction and unspeakable suffering of civilians. We urge Russia to immediately cease all attacks and deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, which constitute serious violations under international humanitarian law.

The human rights situation in Crimea and all other Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine continues to deteriorate. We are appalled by increasing reports of arbitrary detentions, executions, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and other ill-treatment, and enforced displacement. We strongly reiterate that international human rights law and international humanitarian law must be upheld.

Russia bears the full responsibility for all destruction and loss of life of civilians it is causing. Those responsible for human rights violations and abuses must be brought to justice.

Mr. President,

Iceland's support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity remains firm. We reiterate our call on Russia to immediately withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine without precondition, and to fully comply with its obligations under international law.

I thank you.