



Statement of Ireland

50th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, Anaïs Marin

29 June 2022

Mr. President, *[Mr/Madame Vice-President,]*

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and reiterate our support for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

Ireland is gravely concerned by the continually deteriorating human rights situation in Belarus. Special Rapporteur, your report mentions an atmosphere of fear that now penetrates all of Belarusian society. We condemn the concerted campaign of human rights violations committed by the Belarus authorities in order to stoke that fear and suppress all opposition to its rule.

One aspect of that fear is the threat of imprisonment for simply standing up for human rights and fundamental freedoms. There are now over 1,200 political prisoners in Belarus. Many of them have received years-long sentences and others have been sentenced to death. Ireland deplores the continued use of the death penalty in Belarus, and calls for an immediate moratorium with a view to its abolition.

We again condemn Belarus's involvement in the further Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has resulted in widespread human rights violations against the people of Ukraine, and is deeply unpopular among ordinary Belarusians.

Ireland urges the Belarusian authorities to adhere to their international obligations, cooperate with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and implement the recommendations of her report..

Special Rapporteur, in light of the continually detonating situation, what are your priorities for the mandate going forward?

Thank you.