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Statement of Ireland
52nd Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: General debate on the High Commissioner's oral update

7 March 2023

Ireland aligns with the EU statement. We thank the High Commissioner for his update.

We welcome the focus on the Human Rights Council as a source for finding solutions, and we encourage all states to cooperate with the Office and all human rights mechanisms in this regard.

We are deeply concerned by shrinking civic space globally, in particular, restrictions and persecution faced by those who are working for the realisation and enjoyment of human rights.

In the past week, in **Belarus** and **Cambodia**, long sentences have been delivered against human rights defenders and opposition politicians following trials reportedly conducted in violation of fair trial guarantees. Legal procedures must not be instrumentalised to silence civil society actors.

We are concerned that media and civil society actors in **Mali** fear reprisals from state and non-state actors for reporting on human rights violations and abuses. We also remain concerned about the arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists and human rights defenders in **Egypt**.

We welcome the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. We encourage the Government of **Ethiopia** to ensure that accountability for all violations and abuses of human rights is prioritised during the transitional justice process.

Finally, we underline our support for the work and independence of the High Commissioner and the Office.