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## **Statement of Ireland**

### **54th session of the Human Rights Council**

*ID with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Russia*

**21 September 2023**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her first report.

Ireland remains gravely concerned by the human rights situation in Russia, which has significantly deteriorated since its unprovoked and unjustified attack on Ukraine. Your report is clear that the intensifying internal repression in Russia and its external aggression against Ukraine go hand in hand.

Ireland condemns the increasingly repressive crackdown on the peaceful exercise of human rights in Russia, particularly against opponents of the war on Ukraine.

Ireland also condemns recent legislative restrictions that have led to the criminalisation of peaceful anti-war expression and the forced shut down of civic space and independent media. We deplore the mass arbitrary arrests, detentions and harassment of peaceful anti-war activists, human rights defenders, journalists, cultural figures and minorities.

Ireland urges the Russian Federation to end its political misuse of the judiciary and halt its brutal repression of dissent.

And we call on it to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in compliance with its obligations under international human rights law and consistent with the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

*Special Rapporteur, can you elaborate on how limited accountability at the domestic level perpetuates the persistent use of torture and ill-treatment, including of sexual and gender-based violence?*