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Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine

20 March 2023

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Commission for their report.

Ireland again condemns Russia's illegal and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which is having devastating consequences both regionally and globally.

The findings of the Commission are a damning indictment of the brutal impact of Russia's war. We are gravely concerned by your findings that war crimes have been committed, including wilful killings, attacks on civilians, unlawful confinement, torture, rape, and forced transfers and deportations of children.

We condemn the manner in which explosive weapons have been used in populated areas in this conflict, causing civilian casualties and suffering, and major damage to critical civilian infrastructure.

Ireland is committed to promoting accountability and access to justice for the people of Ukraine. We echo your call for robust coordination between accountability actors and to minimise victim re-traumatisation.

We take note of the decision by the ICC's Prosecutor Office to issue arrest warrants for President Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova in respect of possible war crimes related to the unlawful deportation and transfer of children from Ukraine to Russia.

Ireland calls on Russia to immediately end this war, and to withdraw its forces from within the internationally recognised borders of Ukraine.

Commissioners, what can the international community do to promote accountability in its broadest sense, including satisfying victims' right to truth?