

**Interactive Dialogue on the situation of human rights in Ukraine (Council resolution 47/22)
December 15, 2021**

**Nordic – Baltic Statement
Delivered by Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi, Permanent Representative of Finland**

(check against delivery)

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries. We thank the Deputy High Commissioner for the update.

We remain deeply concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in non-government controlled areas in eastern Ukraine and in illegally annexed Crimea. We are deeply concerned by the military build-up by Russia along the Ukrainian border.

In eastern Ukraine, the escalation of violence has resulted in a significant increase in civilian casualties. We are concerned on the continued violations and abuses.

We condemn violations of human rights in Crimea, in particular, the repression of media, forced conferral of citizenship and unlawful detentions carried out by Russia.

Our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and its territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders is firm.

We call upon Russia to adhere to its international commitments and obligations, including under international human rights and international humanitarian law.

Deputy High Commissioner, what needs to be done to ensure unrestricted access for international monitoring organisations to Crimea and to eastern Ukraine?

Thank you.