

Voluntary commitments and pledges of Ukraine on human rights in accordance with resolution 60/251

As a founding Member of the United Nations and responsible partner of international cooperation, Ukraine is strongly committed to the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and strictly adheres to its international commitments under these and other international instruments in the field of human rights.

Ukraine is an active participant in the work of the UN human rights system's bodies and a party to main UN human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, its optional protocols, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Ukraine has actively contributed to the establishment of the Human Rights Council and its activities ever since, and is committed to the effective Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, with a leading role to address human rights violations and promote human rights worldwide. Ukraine considers the Human Rights Council as the main UN organ to respond promptly, effectively and in timely and adequate manner to serious human rights violations, and supports efforts aimed at its further strengthening.

Ukraine strongly believes that human rights violations are often among the major precursors to threats to peace. Bearing that in mind, since 2010, Ukraine has been consistently and regularly promoting in the Human Rights Council the initiative on the role of prevention of human rights violations, with the dedicated support of the core group of States. Relevant HRC resolutions "The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights" (14/5 of 17 June 2010, 18/13 of 29 September 2011, 24/16 of 27 September 2013, 33/6 of 22 September 2016 and 42/6 of 26 September 2019) were adopted by consensus.

As a country that continues to suffer from the Russian armed aggression, Ukraine focuses on the human rights situation in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. It has been Ukraine's firm standpoint expressed in the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions 68/262 «Territorial integrity of Ukraine» (27.03.2014), 71/205, 72/190, 73/263 and 74/168 «Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine» (19.12.2016, 19.12.2017, 22.12.2018 and 18.12.2019), as well as 73/194 and 74/17 «The problem of militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov» (17.12.2018 and 9.12.2019), which is instrumental in political and legal terms.

Ukraine has been working closely with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OHCHR, including with the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) operating at the invitation of the Government of Ukraine since mid-March 2014. The primary objective of the Mission, as envisaged in Article IV of the Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the OHCHR of 31 July 2014, is to "monitor the human rights situation in the country, with particular attention to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Eastern and Southern regions of Ukraine, and provide regular, accurate and public reports by the High Commissioner on the human rights situation and emerging concerns and risks".

While our primary focus lies on humanitarian consequences of the Russian aggression, Ukraine continues to further promote the proper protection of the rights of all persons living across its territory within internationally recognized borders. As an active advocate of gender equality, empowerment of women, overcoming gender stereotypes, Ukraine participates in UN deliberations on these issues, including in the Security Council debates on Women, Peace and Security. In particular, as an elected member of the UN Security Council Ukraine cosponsored the landmark resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000 reaffirming an important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiation, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict resolution. Apart from that, Ukraine duly implements the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in particular by carrying out national programs and projects. Ukraine is a participant of the Group of Friends of WPS.

Ukraine is actively engaged in international cooperation on sustainable development aimed at comprehensively addressing the challenges of environmental protection, social development, and economic growth at global, regional, and national levels, and implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 from human rights perspective.

Actively cooperating with the HRC Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR), Ukraine has undergone three successful UPR cycles in 2008, 2012 and 2017.

As a member of the Human Rights Council, Ukraine submits itself fully to the Universal Periodic Review and undertakes following voluntary commitments and pledges.

Within the Human Rights Council and the United Nations system Ukraine will:

- strive to promote objectivity and non-selectivity in the functioning of the Council;
- engage in a constructive and transparent human rights dialogue with states and NGOs;
- continue to support the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- further contribute to developing modalities of the Universal Periodic Review and to institutional strengthening of the Council;
- cooperate constructively with UN Member States in reforming UN treaty-body system;
- further promote the initiative on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- continue interaction with relevant stakeholders to ensure effective protection and promotion of human rights in armed conflict situations;
- seek to increase support to initiatives and resolutions aimed at protecting children's rights;
- further support activities that promote gender equality, combat violence against women and international trafficking in human beings;
- continue to cooperate with the UN special procedures mandate holders;

- cooperate with UN Member States to ensure that the Human Rights Council is actively engaged in multilateral endeavours aimed at shaping a human rights-compliant response to address negative impact of public emergencies, including the current COVID-19 pandemic,
- ensure that measures taken to address negative impact of public emergencies are in full compliance with states' obligations and commitments under applicable international human rights law.

At the bilateral level, Ukraine will:

- actively cooperate with states – regardless of their membership in the Council – in order to reflect their views with regard to the ongoing deliberations within the Council;
- facilitate the interaction between the Council and individual countries;
- ensure that the Council provides advisory services, technical assistance, and capacity-building in consultation with, and with the consent of states concerned.

Domestically, Ukraine will:

- continue to promote a human-rights-based approach through a better integration of human rights, both in the decision-making process and in policy implementation;
- continue to strengthen a close engagement and partnership between the Government and civil society in promoting and protecting human rights;
- aim at establishing an efficient mechanism of protecting human rights and freedoms in Ukraine and settling systemic issues in this realm, including through drafting the National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS) for the period of 2021-2023 and the Action Plan to implement the NHRS;
- further facilitate transparent dialogue between the Government, the civil society and the media in promoting public policies that guarantee respect for human rights and improvement of human rights nationally;
- ensure effective protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities and indigenous peoples;
- further strengthen activities that protect children's rights and advance women's rights and gender equality;
- implement reforms so as to reinforce protection of human rights and the democratic functioning of the country's institutions in line with international standards;
- continue to focus efforts on the promotion of equal and full participation of women in decision making, in particular in the areas of national security, conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, as well as on protection of the rights of women and the most vulnerable groups, including children, girls, persons with disabilities, older persons, internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants;
- implement relevant laws and develop further policies to combat violence against women and girls in all its forms;
- uphold the independence of National Human Rights Institution, including an effective National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).