

47th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue on the Annual report by the High Commissioner

Geneva, 21 June 2021

German Statement

Madam President, Madam High Commissioner,

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement. We thank the High Commissioner for her report and commend her and her office for their tireless efforts to protect and promote human rights worldwide. To support OHCHR, we have increased our voluntary contribution to 11.5 million USD, 50% un-earmarked.

Madam President,

We commend you and your predecessor for holding the Council safely and effectively during the pandemic. The Treaty Bodies as well have continued working, showing flexibility and adopting virtual working methods. It will be crucial to preserve the advantages of digital means of cooperation, while finding the right balance also with in-person meetings and exchanges.

Madam President,

We remain deeply concerned about the situation of human rights in a number of countries including Belarus, China, Myanmar, Syria and occupied parts of Ukraine, which we intend to refer to separately at this Council session.

We reiterate our deep concerns about the human rights situation in Egypt, where human rights defenders continue to be harassed. In Ethiopia's Tigray region grave and widespread human rights violations, including SGBV, are deeply worrisome. In Russia, those who dare to think and live differently than the government's ideology face repression and persecution; Alexey Navalny being only one of many. The people in illegally annexed Crimea and occupied parts of eastern Ukraine have their freedom restricted by a foreign power. In Venezuela, people deserve that their country finally embarks on a credible path to a democratic future. In North Korea, the suffering of the people at the hands of a merciless regime continues. Thank you!