GANHRI
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

ORAL STATEMENT

Statement to the
49th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council

Urgent Debate on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine

We are gravely concerned about the situation in Ukraine.

Deeply troubling reports are being received about civilian casualties, including children, as a result of hostilities. Civilians across Ukraine are in need of international protection; many are attempting to leave their homes, are on the move to cross borders, or otherwise seeking shelter.

We call for their immediate protection, an immediate end of hostilities, and for full respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

We call for immediate access for humanitarian agencies to ensure that assistance to all civilians affected by the hostilities can be provided.

Independent monitoring to document and report violations of international law by all parties is essential and must be ensured - including to this Council.

We are extremely concerned about the safety of our member, the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights and her staff, as they continue to monitor and report the human rights situation in-country.

We reiterate the 2015 Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations which calls on international bodies, national authorities, and representatives of the conflicting parties to support the activities of national human rights institutions in a conflict or post-conflict situation.

The Declaration also states that National Human Rights Institutions should not be subject to reprisals nor any other form of intimidation as a result of their mandated activities, enjoy freedom from interference and functional immunity in order to perform their functions in conflict areas.

We express our solidarity and support to the Parliamentary Commissioner and staff - and call for immediate measures for their protection.