



**Statement on behalf of Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom and Estonia, current and incoming EU members of the Security Council, on the occasion of the International Day for Human Rights**

Today is Human Rights Day, and, on this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, their universality, indivisibility and interdependence. As one of the three pillars of the United Nations, human rights are at the core of the UN's work. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a cornerstone of the rules-based international system. Human rights are inextricably linked to the maintenance of peace and security and to the achievement of sustainable development.

While celebrating the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights today, we want to stress the importance of the Security Council systematically taking human rights into account in all of its work. Human rights violations and abuses are amongst the first warning signs of a looming conflict; may be part of a conflict's root causes; and are invariably a feature of a conflict. The failure to uphold international human rights norms and standards undermines the Security Council's efforts to sustaining peace. Holding those responsible for human rights violations and abuses to account is a vital component of combating impunity.

Therefore, we want today to recall the necessity for all States to comply with their international human rights obligations and underline the need for the Security Council to focus on advancing the protection of human rights as an integral part of its mandate to maintain international peace and security.