

# Belarus: Statement following conclusion of Constitutional Referendum in Belarus

The Constitutional Referendum in Belarus failed to meet international standards or offer the Belarusian people a true set of options. The lack of international observers or proper public consultation demonstrates the regime's blatant attempts to prevent a democratic process. Furthermore, the arbitrary arrests and crackdown on protests seen during voting was unacceptable.

This result follows the flawed Presidential elections in 2020 where opposition candidates, journalists and peaceful protestors were imprisoned, and protests were brutally suppressed. It also takes place amidst Belarus' unacceptable support of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

We support the Belarusian people's demand for the right to determine their own futures. We urge the authorities to engage in inclusive national dialogue with the democratic opposition and civil society.