



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

12 March 2019

Ireland aligns itself fully with the statement of the European Union.

Mr President,

Ireland deeply regrets that the Government of Burundi has not cooperated with the OHCHR to implement resolution 39/14 and further regrets the recent closure of the UN Human Rights Office in Bujumbura. Ireland supports and recognises the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to work closely with the Government of Burundi in implementing the Human Rights provisions of the Arusha accords, striving to make progress on peacebuilding, security and justice sector reform, and institutional and civil society capacity.

Ireland welcomes the announcement that the President of Burundi will not run in the presidential election of 2020, and calls on the Government of Burundi to ensure adequate political and civil society space exists to allow for credible and transparent elections. Ireland remains concerned at continued reports human rights violations and abuses committed by Burundian defence and security forces with impunity, particularly affecting women and children.

Ireland calls on the Government of Burundi to cooperate with the High Commissioner to allow the OHCHR to fulfil its mandate, to re-open its office, and resume its activities. Ireland strongly urges Burundi to engage with the OHCHR and all UN Human Rights mechanisms in a cooperative and constructive manner. Ireland urges the Government of Burundi to engage fully with members of the Commission of Inquiry, granting full access and protections required to complete Commission's mandate.

Ireland notes the challenges faced now by the Commission of Inquiry and OHCHR in pursuing their mandate, giving the ongoing barriers to access in Burundi. Could you elaborate on any potential roadmap for the continuation of engagement in Burundi?

Thank you.