



Statement of Ireland

45th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

23 September 2020

Madame President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU.

Ireland wishes to thank the Commission of Inquiry and its members for their assiduous work in preparing this report and throughout the duration of its important mandate.

Ireland recognises the recent presidential and legislative elections, and resulting peaceful transfer of power, as a significant opportunity for Burundi. We hope that this signals the dawn of a new era of engagement with the international community; one built upon the shared recognition of the importance of investing in peace, improving the lives of women, children and all persons in vulnerable situations, and respecting human rights.

Ireland remains deeply concerned about reports of human rights violations and abuses, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture, and calls on the Government of Burundi to take immediate action to end human rights violations and abuses, to ensure that such violations and abuses are fully investigated, and to resume cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms.

In this regard, Ireland strongly urges the Government of Burundi to engage with the OHCHR and all UN Human Rights mechanisms in a constructive manner.

Distinguished members of the Commission;

In your report, you highlighted the particular pressures experienced by journalists and human rights defenders, including in some cases, their arbitrary detention. What steps can States take to support a safe and enabling environment for civil society actors, journalists and other media workers in Burundi?

Thank you.