



Statement of Ireland
43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

9 March 2020

Madam President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union. Ireland would like to thank the Commission of Inquiry for its presentation, and to reaffirm our support for your ongoing work.

As on previous occasions, Ireland calls on the Government of Burundi to ensure adequate political and civil society space exists to allow for inclusive, democratic and transparent elections in May 2020. Ireland recalls the need for the Government of Burundi to ensure that fundamental freedoms are upheld in the run up to the elections, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press.

Ireland reiterates its deep concern about reports of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture, and called on the Government of Burundi to ensure that such violations are fully investigated.

Ireland is pleased to note recent reports which indicate that steps are being taken which will contribute to free and fair elections without violence, as well as the return of refugees, and we note the recent positive visit of the Peace Building Commission.

Ireland again strongly urges the Government of Burundi to engage with the OHCHR and all UN Human Rights mechanisms in a constructive manner, and to engage fully with the Commission of Inquiry, granting full access and the protections required to complete the Commission's important mandate.

Noting the serious challenges faced by the Commission of Inquiry and OHCHR to fulfil their mandate as a result of barriers to access in Burundi, could you elaborate further on any potential roadmap for the continuation of engagement in Burundi, and in particular any new opportunities which may exist following the election of a new President in May?

Thank you.