



## **Statement of Ireland**

### **46th session of the Human Rights Council**

#### **Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the DRC from the High Commissioner and the expert team on Kasai**

**19 March 2021**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Group of Experts for their work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Ireland notes with concern the ongoing limitations and restrictions placed on freedom of expression. We call on the Government to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their activities without interference or harassment.

Ireland welcomes the progress made in combatting impunity in the past year, including through the completion of consultations and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms in the Kasai region, although much remains to be done. Ireland urges the Government to build upon this progress by putting in place robust mechanisms that will protect and promote the human rights of all its citizens, through accountability and the rule of law.

Ireland remains deeply concerned about reports of human rights violations committed by the armed forces. Ireland calls on the Government to investigate fully all such reports in a transparent manner and to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

*In light of the planned drawdown of MONUSCO forces in 2021, how can the international community best support the Government in ending impunity for human rights violations committed by state forces?*